









HOME NEWS

# Reactions to coal crisis irritate the Government

By Fred Emery  
Political Editor

The alacrity with which Mrs Margaret Thatcher agreed that the planned tripartite meeting with the miners should be brought forward to today was being seen last night as a sure sign of her sharp concern that the situation had got out of hand quite unnecessarily.

While the Prime Minister is said to be determined to have no part in the meetings herself, she made sure that Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, who was in a meeting with her at No 10 Downing Street when the renewed request from the miners came through, responded instantly.

It seemed clear from alligator reactions in Whitehall that Mrs Thatcher had been irritated by the clamour of criticism, which she saw as alarmism, that had descended on her head from such usually friendly newspapers as the Daily Mail.

The Government was clearly annoyed that any thought it had of defusing that alarmism over numbers of pit closures and jobs lost had gone sour before today's planned disclosure by the National Coal Board of the facts. Many politicians find it extraordinary that the Government had been incapable of announcing the facts and so perhaps heading off a strike in South Wales. It is being officially stated that the coal board had to sell its own men of the plans first and in the meantime ride the storm of false speculation.

Last Thursday Mrs Thatcher gave the Commons and the country the clear impression that she would call a tripartite meeting of that sort. It was being said that she, and the Leader of the Opposition in challenging her, might have forgotten that the mechanism was in use and did not have to be reconstructed.

The actual exchange suggests that on this occasion Mr Michael Foot knew the facts well and that the Prime Minister was being defiant first, and reflecting later.



All quiet in the Rhondda Valley yesterday as the miners of South Wales continued their strike.

Photograph by Brian Harris

## Moderate coalfield thinks national strike of several weeks is almost inevitable

From Richard Ford  
Bestwood, Nottinghamshire

The National Coal Board's plan for closing pits and making miners redundant continues to attract strong opposition from traditionally moderate coalfields.

Even in the Nottinghamshire coalfield, which has escaped lightly, there is a growing expectation among miners that a national strike is almost inevitable, and that it will last several weeks.

The momentum is such that many men feel it will be impossible to stop and at the same time, there is a growing feeling that the National Union of Miners (NUM) must make a stand.

Many miners suspect that traditionally moderate coalfields are feeling the effects of the board's proposals much less than militant areas, and they see that as an attempt to split the union.

Mr Ray Chadburn, Nottinghamshire area president, said yesterday, after hearing the board's proposals of coal would cut this year and were only 3 per cent of the total for British users. Britain in 1981 was expected to be a net exporter of coal.

The NCB, he said, had known all along that it faced a long term need for closures of uneconomic pits and the figures were brought forward in one lump because that had been asked for by the National Union of Miners so that they could be studied centrally.

Parliamentary report, page 9  
Leading article, page 15

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Parliamentary report, page 9  
Leading article, page 15

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Parliamentary report, page 9  
Leading article, page 15

This is one fight we must win, lodge chairman says

## Pit where the men felt they dare not wait to hear the union line

From Tim Jones

The men of Coeogant colliery who started the miners' challenge to the National Coal Board's pit closure programme explained yesterday why they felt they could not wait for the polite politicking of Mr Joseph Gormley, their national president, in their battle to save jobs.

The 384 miners whose pit at the top of the Llynfi Valley, near Maesteg, has been condemned, broke ranks and union discipline when they started an unofficial strike on Saturday, four days before the planned delegate area conference which was to have discussed the union's official line.

They were followed by the men of Brynllw colliery, and the South Wales miners' leadership, faced with the prospect of a revolt, they could not control, hastily brought the conference forward to Monday and announced that the entire coalfield would come to a standstill.

According to Mr Malcolm Beck, the lodge chairman at Coeogant, the coal board succeeded in turning his men overnight from a moderate workforce into a militant one. "Traditionally we have been a reasonable workforce, but after the treatment we have had all trust between us and the board has gone", he said.

Last Thursday the miners at the pit had some cause to celebrate for two senior officials from the area coal board visited the mine and congratulated the men on opening up a new face two weeks ahead of schedule.

The new seam represented an investment of £1.5m and the men felt confident that their jobs were secure.

When the announcement was made the very next day that we were to close we felt betrayed", Mr Beck said.

He was "deeply suspicious" of coal board figures that referred to the quality of the coal mined at the pit. "At first they said it was only 32 per cent saleable and gradually that figure has changed to 60 per cent".

Coeogant miners, with an average age of 39, make up one of the youngest workforces in the coalfield and the prospects of their finding alternative work are bleak.

At first glance the new jobcentre, which opened just two weeks ago, offers hope for it displays cards advertising scores of jobs. Sadly, however, only a handful are for local employment and the others offer positions in Corby, Milton Keynes, Gloucester, and other distant towns. There are 16 offers from Saudi Arabia—more than there are available for men in the town or surrounding districts.

Llynfi power station, once a big employer of men in the valley, closed about five years ago and there were other severe job losses when the men who used to travel to Port Talbot lost their posts under the British Steel Corporation's closure proposals.

Lewis Edwards, which employed many women making clothes, closed recently and the Revlon factory is on a three-day week with no certainty that that reduced rate of production can be maintained.

Faced with the continuing recession, the men at Coeogant know that if their pit, which will be 100 years old next year, closes, many of them will never work again. "This is one fight we must win", Mr Beck said.

The Coal Board said it invested in Coeogant to give the men a chance to prove the pit was viable. "Unfortunately the new face proved to have a very high ash content and the pit was therefore a hopeless economic case", an official said.

On present estimates, the South Wales coalfield will lose £100m next year. That means that it will consume a quarter of the total money available to the board for less than a twelfth of the production.

## Howell emphasis on conciliation

By Hugh Noyes

Parliamentary Correspondent  
Westminster

As MPs on both sides of the House yesterday pressed home to Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, the need of allowing matters to take their course without government intervention, he emphasized the new mood of conciliation.

The implication of the words both of the Prime Minister and Mr Howell was that the Government was not set on the National Coal Board's final proposals on closures and redundancies. Mrs Margaret Thatcher pointed out that area boards were still talking on those matters and that process would have to be completed before the full proposals could be known.

From the advice she had received there were far fewer pits to be closed than had been rumoured and it was vital that any talks should be conducted on the basis of the facts.

The Prime Minister added

that the Government was particularly anxious that extra money should go to the pits for future development. Investment this year would be about £800m, the greater part supplied by the taxpayers.

Pointing out that pit closures had been going on for a number of years, eight a year over the last decade and 40 a year in the previous decade, Mrs Thatcher said that the Government had honoured the plans for coal and wanted to put as much money as possible into the future of coal.

Following the Prime Minister's lead, Mr Howell also placed great emphasis on the inaccuracy of the closure and redundancy figures being rumoured. The coal board had not spoken of 50 closures, as was being suggested.

Mr Howell said that sort of talk was causing unnecessary fears; the final figure would turn out to be considerably below what was being bandied about.

The Secretary of State emphasized that pit closures were inevitable and predictable but must be carried through in a sensible way with sympathetic understanding of the difficulties, particularly over redundancies.

With many MPs on the Conservative benches highly critical of the tactics of the coal board and the way in which the board had handled the issue, Mr Howell pointed out that the board would fall this year and were only 3 per cent of the total for British users. Britain in 1981 was expected to be a net exporter of coal.

The NCB, he said, had known all along that it faced a long term need for closures of uneconomic pits and the figures were brought forward in one lump because that had been asked for by the National Union of Miners so that they could be studied centrally.

Parliamentary report, page 9  
Leading article, page 15

## Trouble at marches averted by luck, MPs are told

By Frances Gibb

Serious public disorder at marches and demonstrations has been averted so far because the police have been lucky in obtaining information, a Commons committee on the Greater Manchester Bill was told yesterday.

Mr John Hugill, QC, for the Greater Manchester Council, the promoters of the Bill, said that civil order should not depend on the possibility of courteous information about the time and place of marches being passed to the police.

A clause seeks to introduce requirement that organizers of marches must give 72 hours' notice to the police, or as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Similar clauses are contained in Bills pending from Kent and East Sussex county councils and the Government's Green Paper on public order, which recommends notice of five days or marches.

Mr Hugill was opening the opposed Bill hearing before our members of Parliament under the chairmanship of Mr Michael Hamilton, Conservative MP for Salisbury.

The clause, whose key supporter is Mr James Anderson, chief Constable of Greater

Manchester, is opposed by 16 MPs and several bodies, including the National Council for Civil Liberties.

Mr Anderson, called yesterday as chief witness for the council, said that when the police were not notified they sometimes had to muster at very short notice from other divisions. It was not unusual for two to three thousand officers to be needed. Even from a seven-thousand strong force such as Manchester's, that needed considerable planning.

Mr Anderson, called yesterday, said that he was given notice to be given to the House of Lords. The Commons committee has power to amend the clause further or reject it.

Mr Anderson said that 72 hours was the absolute minimum that would be adequate.

Under the clause it would become a criminal offence, liable to a fine up to £200, not to give 72 hours' notice, or as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Opponents argue that the measure is restrictive and unnecessary as 80 per cent of organizations already give such notice.

## Criticisms fail to deflect the Paisley campaign

From David Nicholson-Lord  
Belfast

The Rev Ian Paisley refused yesterday to be deflected from his Carson trail of "loyalist" rallies in opposition to the Anglo-Irish summit last December. He discounted criticisms from Lord Carson's son and Dr H. Montgomery Hyde, Lord Carson's official biographer.

Mr Edward Carson, Lord Carson's surviving son, yesterday described Mr Paisley's actions as a "masquerade" and said the situation now could not be compared with that before the First World War when his father organized the mass campaign of opposition to home rule. Mr Paisley had "no justification for what he is doing".

His criticisms came after a letter to The Times from Dr Hyde, who said that Mr Paisley was doing the name of Lord Carson a grave disservice. Dr Hyde added yesterday that Mr Paisley used vulgar and offensive language about Roman Catholics, which Lord Carson would never do.

Mr Paisley's response was an immediate statement saying the criticisms would not affect his Democratic Unionist Party's "determined campaign of resistance" to the Dublin talks.

## Walker plea for end to fish protest

By Jacob Ecclestone

Mr Peter Walker, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, appealed yesterday for an end to the blockade of ports by fishermen protesting at the import of cheap foreign fish. He told leaders of the fishing industry at a meeting in London that the blockades are damaging the industry's use and putting pressure on one.

After the talks in Brussels a week, at which the Council Fisheries Ministers of the EC failed to reach agreement, Walker invited representatives of the various fishing organizations to put to him his analysis of the industry's uncial position and their suggestions for dealing with cheap illegal imports of fish.

It was agreed yesterday that joint working party should set up under the chairmanship of Mr William Jackson, an official at the Department of Agriculture, to investigate allegations of unfair imports.

Written submissions were put to Mr Walker yesterday on the financial state of the industry, and more evidence of unfair and illegal imports will be given to the committee when it meets next week.

Mr Walker described the meeting as constructive. "As far as the Government is concerned, we were the ones who brought forward the review", he said.

Mr Neil Parkes, president of the British Fishing Federation, was similarly pleased by the talks while emphasizing that the industry needed a quick decision on the level of financial support it could expect from the Government.

Although figures were not discussed at the meeting, it was thought that the Government will be asked for about £100m over the next year, of which the Scottish Fishermen's Federation will be seeking about £54m. Tighter controls: Stricter measures to restrict the shipping of fish caught in British waters to factory vessels were under consideration. Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State for Agriculture, told MPs yesterday (the Press Association reports).

The practice, known as "Klondyking", has prompted protests from MPs of all parties because the operation, usually involving East European factory ships anchored offshore, bypasses the home-based fish processing industry.

EEC pressure, page 5  
Fisherman's view, page 19

## A NEW NAME IN THE BARCLAYS GROUP - WITH TWENTY YEARS' EXPERIENCE OF HELPING BRITISH EXPORTERS

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## HOME NEWS

## US agreement to buy Rapier in £140m deal boosts hope of more missile export orders

By Henry Stanhope  
Defence Correspondent

The United States Air Force has agreed a £140m purchase of Britain's Rapier low-level anti-aircraft missile to defend its main air bases in this country.

British Aerospace Dynamics can start work on the 28 missile launchers and four trainers which will enter service with the USAF over the next four years.

The deal is unique in that the missiles, equipped with all-weather radar, will be manned by more than 300

members of the RAF Regiment, which will expand its recruiting for that purpose.

The reciprocal arrangement was first officially outlined last July when the Government presented the deal as a transatlantic offset against Britain's purchase of the Trident nuclear missile.

Admiral Sir Raymond Lygo, chairman of British Aerospace Dynamics, described the deal as "a codswallop" and said the negotiations over Rapier were begun long before Trident, and had proceeded independently.

The completion of the sale to the Americans will not only help to secure jobs at British Aerospace in Stevenage and Bristol but will boost the chances of further export orders.

The missile has made £1,150m for its makers, through orders from the British Army and the RAF, and from Australia, Brunei, Abu Dhabi, Oman, Iran, Zambia and, most recently, Switzerland.

The USAF is thought to be interested in acquiring about 14 more launchers eventually if it can find the money.

Other countries which are assessing the British weapon against other overseas competitors include Ecuador, Greece, Egypt, Norway, Qatar, Singapore, South Korea, Spain and Turkey, while the British Army is hoping to scrape up the money to buy nearly 50 units of Tracked Rapier, the mounted version originally ordered by the late Shah of Iran and cancelled after his downfall.

Meanwhile British Aerospace are working on an improved version of the weapon, which it is said can remain effective until beyond the year 2000.

## Defence exceeds cash limits by £260m

By Our Parliamentary Correspondent  
Westminster

In spite of the devotion to cash limits of Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, his department for the second time in 1980-81, overspent its limit, this time by £260m.

Announcing that in the Commons yesterday, Mr Nott said that the overspending would be reflected in a supplementary estimate which would be presented today. Mr Nott is encountering the same difficulties as his predecessor, Mr Francis Pym, now Leader of the House, who last August announced that the cash limits would be exceeded by £254m.

Mr Pym and his department were then taken to task by Mr John Biffen, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who said that no departments should consider themselves exempt from the limits and that the overspend would be deducted from the next year's expenditure limits.

Mr Pym later stated in the Commons, with the evident approval of many Tory MPs, that his view, which was not that of his Cabinet colleagues, was that defence should be protected from cash limits restraints.

Various cuts have since been announced in the defence costs in an attempt to reduce expenditure but Mr Nott's announcement yesterday shows that those have not been fully effective.

He told the House that the

usual practice was that overspending should be offset by a corresponding reduction in the following year. However, the financial figures for the defence budget would not be known for some time and the position would be reviewed then. He was continuing to take steps to restrain expenditure.

To criticism from the opposition benches, Mr Nott said that the country must afford the present level of defence expenditure because Britain was faced with a threat to its freedom and liberty.

Earlier, answering another question, Mr Nott said there were limits to the resources of this country and cash limits was a system which helped the United Kingdom to keep within those resources.

He supported a system of cash limits, Defence expenditure was increasing in real terms and was going up faster than any other programme.

Our Defence Correspondent writes: Estimates of the amount by which the Ministry of Defence will have overspent at the end of this financial year have varied between £260m and £400m. The Ministry has blamed the recession, which has prompted companies to complete defence contracts and to submit their bills more quickly than before.

To allow for a reduction in next year's cash limits, the services are being pressed to volunteer still more stringent economies in 1981-82.

Parliamentary report, page 9

## Gloom in Armed Forces as fuel economies are continued to next year

By Our Defence Correspondent

Fuel economies which were ordered five months ago for the Armed Forces, are to be continued throughout the next financial year, with consequent cuts in travel and training.

Whitehall sources said last night that operational effectiveness would not be lowered.

The fuel reductions formed the bulk of a £100m saving package imposed last September as the Ministry of Defence struggled to pay its bills within the Treasury's cash limits.

The services are gloomily viewing the prospect of a further 12 months of restricted movement while the ministry copes with the financial penalties of this year's overspending.

The Royal Navy, which had to withdraw two frigates from a Nato exercise last autumn, help meet a 30 per cent cut in its fuel allocation, will have to adjust its plans to meet a 20 per cent reduction until April 1982.

The RAF is cutting the fuel allocation to its transport fleet by a quarter, and the Army is cutting its fuel allocation by 16 per cent. The reductions in flying time will be felt most acutely by the heavy fuel burners like the VC-10 transports and the Vulcan bomber squadrons.

The reductions will mean that pilots will be flying only about

17 hours a month, as opposed to 22 hours previously, which is not much above Nato minimum requirement.

Flying hours for new pilots in training will not be affected because the RAF is still more than 300 pilots short and is likely to remain so for some years. It takes about three years to train a pilot and there is always an overflow of trained men reach the end of their engagements.

The Ministry of Defence is insisting that flight safety standards will not be impaired. Safety records improved in the past two years, it says, from an accident rate of 0.52 per cent for every 10,000 flying hours in 1979 to 0.47 per cent in 1980.

The RAF has been trying to save money by sending troops and their families to Hong Kong by commercial jets instead of by weekly flights by RAF VC-10s.

The Army is also imposing restrictions on fuel consumption. Its consumption is less than the other two services and it is having to find other savings as well.

The RAF's Red Arrows demonstration team is likely to tour the Middle East next month, including Jordan, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

The tour was cancelled last year because of the Gulf war. It will provide an opportunity for Britain to display the Hawk aircraft in the hope of winning orders.

## £4,250 damages for copying music

School choirs and other amateur music groups were warned yesterday that they are breaking the law by copying sheet music.

The practice is widespread and writers and composers are losing much money, the Music Publishers' Association said after a High Court settlement.

Oakham, Leicestershire, one of Britain's oldest public schools, who were said to have been copying music for years, for convenience, face a bill for £4,250 damages and costs.

They agreed to pay the amount in settlement of an action against them by Novello & Co, music publishers, and the

Music Publishers' Association. The settlement terms also included undertakings by the school not to infringe copyright or reproduce sheet music by photographic or other processes without the copyright holders' consent.

Mr Peter Bowsher, QC, for the music publishers, told Mr Justice Goulding that the damages were based on "the agreed flagrancy of the infringement".

Counsel added: "Music publishers wish to make it clear that this copying of sheet music must not continue in schools in breach of the agreed code of fair practice. The defendants now recognize that the copying

which has been done at the school is indefensible.

The trustees have been most cooperative after service of the proceedings on them. A total of 15,000 sheets of infringing copies had been handed over.

The musical works involved were all Christmas carols. They were in an infringing book of carols sent to the publishers by an anonymous source.

Mr David Kirchin, for the school, said Oakham regretted most sincerely that cause was given for the action. The copying was more for convenience and expedience than through any deliberate intent to deprive the copy-holders

## Cambridge don's post is extended

By a Staff Reporter

Dr Colin MacCabe, the lecturer in the centre of the dispute in the Cambridge University English faculty has had his teaching fellowship at King's College extended for a further year.

The college decided to extend the contract which involves giving tutorials for about 10 hours a week, because it feels that he has had a "raw deal" from the university. He will be paid on the full lecturer's scale of £8,500 until September 1982, £17,280 thereafter.

In December the English faculty appointments committee decided not to promote Dr MacCabe to the post of university lecturer next September at the end of his five-year contract.

Dr MacCabe's post is a promotion had been recommended by the faculty board. The committee's decision, which has provoked a controversy about the value of structuralism in the study of English, is under examination by a sub-committee of the university's general board of the faculties.

The committee is expected to report by the end of March. Dr Timothy Leggatt, senior tutor of King's College, said yesterday: "We do not seek a college to right the wrongs that our members may feel they have suffered at the hands of a university department, but we do feel Dr MacCabe has had a raw deal."

Orally he would have known last February that he was about to embark on his final year in the English faculty and would have had 16 months to find an alternative job. As it turned out he did not know until September that he would be going in September.

"As decent employers, we felt that he should be given extra time so that he can look for another job. We originally thought that he would be upgraded and so we had counted on having his services for the coming academic year."

Dr MacCabe refused to comment yesterday.

## Eight million offences estimated yearly

By Martin Huckerby

The success of the Music Publishers' Association in gaining the damages from Oakham School represents another stage in its campaign to end the widespread illegal copying of music.

The association estimates that each year about eight million copies of copyright music and written material have been made unlawfully in Britain's schools, largely

because the schools are short of money. Based on a survey carried out in Scotland, it also estimates that three-fifths of the material copied is sheet music.

Mr Johnson Dyer, of the association, said that last year it had won a similar case against the Wolverhampton education authority and had then issued a warning that, if anyone failed to keep within the code of fair practice agreed

with the music user organizations in 1979, the association would have to demonstrate that infringement was not worth the consequences.

When it received the copies of carols made at Oakham it had pressed for exemplary damages. Mr Dyer said that the association was not fighting on behalf of deceased and defunct composers. Many of the carols were written by living composers.

## Postal ballot to be conducted on national park

By Our Planning Reporter

About 300,000 people in south-west Scotland are to be asked whether they would like to see the Galloway hills designated as the country's first national park.

A postal ballot is being conducted by the Scottish Conservation Society with financial help from an anonymous donor.

The society believes that the area is under threat from development, not least from a proposal to drill test boreholes for the possible future dumping of nuclear waste. The result of a public inquiry into the drilling application is expected next month.

## EEC male midwife rule worries royal college

By Lucy Hodges

The Royal College of Midwives is anxious about an EEC directive which means that men will have to be allowed to train and practise freely as midwives by 1983.

A number of discussions with the Department of Health and Social Security it is awaiting the results of research at the two United Kingdom hospitals where men are allowed to train and practise as midwives.

The college's reservations stem from the medical convention that male midwives are not allowed to examine their patients in the same way as women midwives. They have to be chaperoned much of the

time, which is expensive, to protect them from charges of assault.

Miss Ann Ryder, the college's professional officer, questioned whether male midwives could practise on their own in private homes or in hospital wards where they would be dealing with "highly emotional patients" who might be having difficulties with, say, breast-feeding.

"We accept the fact that male midwives are going to come but we have reservations about their role," she said. Midwives would be divided into those able to undertake all the work and those who would be specialized.

## Powell attack on nationality Bill

By Philip Webster

Mr Enoch Powell, arguing yesterday against the nationality Bill's provision that nationality can be passed to children by their mothers, said that the differentiation of functions between the sexes had been the reason why hitherto it could be transmitted only through the male line.

Moving an amendment during the Bill's Commons committee stage to restore that position, Mr Powell, Official Ulster Unionist MP for Down, South, said that nationality in the last resort was tested by fighting. A man's nation was the nation for which he would fight and his nationality was the expression of his allegiance.

One of the essential differentiations of function between man and woman was that between fighting on the one hand and the preservation and creation of life on the other. "The two sexes are deeply differentiated in accordance with those two functions."

Mr Powell said the absurdities that had clustered around the recent concern with sex discrimination verged on the boundary line where the harmlessly absurd became harmful and dangerous.

An opposition amendment, which had been debated for more than six hours at yesterday's and the previous two sittings of the committee, designed to reestablish the principle of the right of automatic citizenship for every child born in the United Kingdom, was rejected by 12 votes to nine.

Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State at the Home Office, said that the Government was at an early stage of considering what changes would be necessary to the immigration rules following the passage of the Bill.

Awareness of Bill: Non-white people are almost twice as aware as whites of the nation-



Princess Anne, elected yesterday as Chancellor of London University, had an engagement at the prizegiving of a weaving and embroidery competition at Debenham's, Oxford Street.

## In brief

## Council to put up rates by 180%

Bassetlaw District Council in north Nottinghamshire is to be asked by its finance committee to raise its rates by 180 per cent from 12.5p to 35p in the pound.

## Balloon money sought

Julian Nott, aged 36, from London, who holds the world ballooning altitude record, and Judith Chisholm, aged 29, from Buckinghamshire, a record-breaking aviator, are seeking £250,000 in sponsorship to join the race to be the first to travel round the world non-stop in a balloon.

## Irish history exemption

Mr Albert Reynolds, the Irish Republic's Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, last night signed an order specifically excluding the series, Ireland, a Television History, from the provisions of the republic's broadcasting Act which prohibits the showing of interviews with the Provisional IRA.

## Rail for Miss Faithfull

Marianne Faithfull, the singer, and Ian Brierty, her husband, the guitarist, were committed at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday on unconditional bail for trial at Inner London Crown Court on drug charges.

## Bill for empty flats

The London Borough of Islington has been spending £50,000 a year on heating empty council houses. Officials said the survey had ordered the practice to end.

## Milkman of the year

Alan Dornely, aged 28, from Sutton Coldfield, has won the National Dairy Council's 1981 award for personality milkman of the year. He also received a cash award.

## Mary Rose appeal

The Prince of Wales urged businessmen in the City of London last night to respond to a £2m appeal to help to raise the wreck of Henry VIII's flagship the Mary Rose from the Solent.

## House design awards

New Housing Design Awards are to replace those of the Department of the Environment and the National House Building Council.

## Ratepayers issue writ against councillors

By Ian Bradley

A writ is to be served today on 30 councillors in the London Borough of Camden and on the council alleging "overspending and deliberate disregard of duty."

The writ, issued by members of the Camden Ratepayers Association, states that the councillors "have been spending according to certain, long-held principles and policies which bear no relation to their duties to the ratepayers."

Miss Diana Yach, the association's press secretary, said yesterday: "We are particularly concerned about the supplementary rate of 6p which was levied in December. Councillors have a duty to account to the ratepayers."

The association is holding a meeting tonight in Friends Hall, Euston Road, London, at which Camden ratepayers will be recommended to pay their rates to the council but to designate that the money be put into a trust account. They will be told to write "ratepayers' account" on their cheques.

The association believes that if councillors use trust money unwisely they will place themselves at risk in law.

In a separate move yesterday, employees of Camden council who are members of the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE) voted two to one for a series of one-day strikes.

About 800 of the 2,500 NUPE members employed by the council attended a mass meeting called to protest against reductions in staffing, increases and the Government's demand for repayment of £2m paid in supplementary wages to council workers.

They voted for a one-day strike on March 4 to be followed by selective lightning strikes.

## Manchester protest over block grant

From John Chatteris, Manchester

The Prime Minister was asked yesterday to receive a delegation from Manchester to discuss the city's economic and social difficulties.

Mr David Hogg, MP, representing all but one of the city constituencies, signed a letter to Mrs Margaret Thatcher asking her to meet a delegation soon. They would like to meet Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, and Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry.

The Labour-controlled city council, whose leaders are resisting a left-wing threat to their authority, is trying to

organize a mass lobby of Parliament.

Their chief complaint is that Manchester is suffering unfairly from the decision to deprive it of assisted area status from August, 1982, and from the block grant system which would call for a cut in spending of £17.5m in the next financial year or a substantial increase in rates.

A submission to the Government states that the block grant arrangement is arbitrary and unjust and asks for more funds for the joint inner city partnership with Salford and for industrial development.

It states that the number of manufacturing jobs in the city fell from 63,000 in 1961 to less

than 28,000 in 1976 and the loss continues; that in the past two years unemployment has risen from 9 per cent to 14 per cent; that the city has lost three thousand people under 25; are unemployed in the city.

It predicts that government policies would mean a possible rate increase of 45.2 per cent although the council is working to reduce this figure. Council leaders are asking for a 3 per cent increase, 5 per cent for Warrington and 10 per cent for Wigan.

It also points out that Manchester's antiquated sewage system is collapsing and will get steadily worse because of government restrictions on spending by the North-West Water Authority.

## The Open Space Theatre closes with £32,296 loss

An Arts Council decision to withdraw its grant meant that the Open Space Theatre must close, a creditors' meeting was told yesterday.

The theatre, which was operated by Camden Playhouse Productions, had debts of £32,296 and assets of £354.

The meeting, held in the office of Mr Roy Woodman, assistant official receiver, heard that the company promoted plays that were not necessarily commercial.

Mr Charles Marowitz, the only director still in office, told Mr Woodman that the company had depended on Arts Council grants to pay the annual deficit.

Difficulties arose when the grant was cut last year and when the company was told it would get nothing in 1981, trading ceased.

Creditors left the matter with the Official Receiver as liquidator.

Inventive theatre: The Open Space Theatre, founded in 1968 by Mr Marowitz and Thekla Holt, who runs the Round House, has been a most inventive experimental theatre (our Theatre Reporter writes).

It played an important part in the development of fringe theatre, matching an intelligent choice of new work with such adaptations of the classics as Marowitz's versions of *Hamlet* and *Macbeth*.

Rarely free from controversy, especially on the subject of money, the Open Space has had increasing difficulties in the past few years. It lost its original home in Tottenham Court Road, and then its temporary premises in Euston Road, becoming a troupe of wander-

ing players.

Letters, page 15

## Diamond dealers jailed for faking £775,894 robbery

Two Hazon Garden diamond merchants were each jailed for five years yesterday for staging a fake robbery in the hope of gaining more than £1m.

Mr Wilfred Hogg, aged 37, was found in Clerkenwell, London, early on February 11 last year with his hands and feet tied, and with a minor facial injury, Mr Michael Corkery, for the prosecution, said.

Mr Hogg, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, told detectives that he had been robbed of jewels worth £775,894 by armed men as he left his office to go on a sales trip to Saudi Arabia.

Mr Corkery said that Mr Hogg and Mr John Heath, aged 35, of Fulmer, Buckinghamshire, planned to claim the £775,894 dishonestly from a Lloyds underwriter and later dispose of the stones.

He read a statement by Mr

## Disabled to see flower show on private day

By Pat Healy

The Royal Horticultural Society bowed to pressure yesterday and agreed that disabled people will, after all, be allowed into Chelsea flower show on the private viewing day, the Monday. The numbers will be limited, however, and they will be chosen by ballot.

The decision overtook a potential protest at the society's annual meeting in London yesterday by members who had been pressing for visiting facilities before the public days as a gesture to the International Year of Disabled People. Mrs Eileen Aston, a fellow of the society and wife of the chairman of the international year's British committee, said she was delighted at the announcement.

The main aim of the year, Mrs Aston said, was to try to integrate disabled people into society as much as possible. But there were times when a helping hand was necessary and appropriate.

Before making the announcement, Lord Abernethy, president of the society, emphasized the difficulties of having disabled people in the grounds of the Chelsea show while the judges were still there. The show was open to disabled people on all the other days, he said, and the society welcomed them.

It pointed out that the society had just received a award from Guildford Borough Council for the facilities at Wisley gardens, and that award had been made before the decision to make entry free for disabled people.

The original decision not to let disabled people in on the Monday had nothing to do with the traditional visit then to the Royal Family, Lord Abernethy said. But he had been asked by Mr Hugh Rossi, Minister of State for Social Security and the Disabled, to allow 20 disabled people in wheelchairs, to be chosen by ballot, to visit the show on that day.

The society was happy to meet any reasonable request from the Government and it would accept that one. It would not be practicable to offer facilities to a large number of disabled people. Asked by a society member why he was fixing the number at 20, rather than a maximum number, Lord Abernethy said there would be flexibility.

The limit would not necessarily be 20, but the number who could be accommodated in personally guided tours. The details had not yet been worked out.

The annual meeting unanimously endorsed on a show of hands the society's action in opposing plans to reopen Wisley airport. Lord Abernethy, who made his maiden speech last 27 years in the Lords on the issue, said the society would seek an injunction to prevent the reopening of the airport if there was an appeal.

RHS show, page 16

## NUCLEAR ATTACK Protection for Industry

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ME NEWS

# Prison trial judge tells press that they deserve boiling in oil

Our Correspondent

Justice Michael Davies told the press at Winchester Crown Court yesterday that the trial of Miss Rosie the yachtswoman, and Miss Tracey Stamp, said the press deserved a punishment, and that they deserved to be boiled in oil.

After reminding the jury that he had warned them at the outset of the trial to avoid reading about the case or listening to it on television or radio, he said: "I am very disappointed with the press. They cannot stick to what is said exactly in court. If there are any more inaccuracies then I shall take action. The aim of the law is very long."

At the end of Mr Vincent's evidence the judge said he would release him on condition that he did not speak to the press or television during the trial.

He added: "I am not going to have interviews with you splashed all over the papers. In this country we have trial by judge and jury, not trial by the newspapers or television."

Mr Vincent had earlier told the jury that he was violently ill for weeks while living with the two women in West Road, Woolston, Southampton. On the occasion, in September 1978, Miss Stamp and Miss Swale had both prepared the dinner.

He continued: "The portions looked similar so I picked up one of the plates and went into the lounge to watch television. The other two picked up their meals and we all ate together. I did not suffer any illness, but Tracey did. She had all the symptoms I had suffered."

He later told a friend: "I thought that one of them had eaten the wrong dinner, and perhaps they were poisoning me."

Cross-examined by Mr Anthony Palmer, QC, for Miss Stamp, Mr Vincent said he had always been amazed at the care the two women gave him when he was ill.

He added: "It was for that reason I could not have thought two people who were always so nice, so kindly, could be poisoning me."

Once, he said, Miss Stamp told him she had cast a spell and made him ill.

Miss Stamp and Miss Swale both deny poisoning Mr Vincent; attempting to pervert the course of justice by fabricating evidence; and perjury. They now live at Chapel Cottage Penford, Dyfed.

The trial continues today.



Mr James Atwood, a stone carver employed by the Department of the Environment, busy in his workshop in Horsesherry Road, London, preparing gargoyles for a tower at Windsor Castle.

WEST EUROPE

# Britain resists EEC pressure to approve Canadian fishing deal

From Michael Hornsby, Brussels, Feb 17

Britain today stood firm in its refusal to approve new fisheries agreements between the EEC, Canada and the Faroes despite pleas from West Germany and other member states.

At a meeting of EEC foreign ministers, Sir Ian Gilmour, the British ambassador in Brussels, said that the British position was that the deal was "political and psychological".

Sir Ian accepted that the volume of Canadian imports might not be enormous, but it would be "the straw that broke the camel's back" for British fishermen who were already up in arms over competition from cheap imports.

Moreover, it had always been understood, Sir Ian maintained, that the Canada deal could be only part of an overall fisheries settlement which included new measures to give EEC fishermen better protection against cut-price imports.

Sir Ian indicated later that Britain did not see any objection to ratification of a fisheries agreement with Spain which was reached between Spanish officials and the European Commission this morning.

This will license 142 Spanish boats to catch 10,500 tonnes of hake in EEC (mainly French) waters over the coming year—about 11 per cent less than the Spanish catch last year.

# Gunmen kill hospital director in Milan

From Peter Nichols, Rome, Feb 17

Gunmen today shot and killed Dr Luigi Marazoni, aged 44, medical director of Milan's general hospital, as he left his home to go to work.

An anonymous telephone caller later claimed responsibility for the murder in the name of the Red Brigades terrorist movement of the extreme left.

Dr Marazoni was the third victim of terrorists this year, after the killings of two carabinieri at Padua on February 6.

Plain clothes policemen arrived on the scene in time to engage the murderers in a gunfight and they believe they wounded one of them before the four escaped in a stolen car.

The dead man's family said he had received so many threats to his life by telephone that he had changed the number. He had also received threatening letters.

Hospital accusation: Police said Dr Marazoni, died 20 minutes after reaching hospital from three bullet wounds in the head and one in the left arm (UPI reports from Milan).

The Red Brigades accuse hospital personnel of collaborating with the Government in its struggle against terrorism.

# Communist hecklers break up TV debate

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Feb 17

Militants of the communist-led trade union organization CGT last night gatecrashed a French television debate on the plight of youths unable to find work, and brought it to a halt.

Thirty-three young people of different political persuasions (including some members of the Communist youth organization) were fitted in a live programme held in a large hall against a backdrop of a "commando operation" of seven, including a minister, a capitalist, a doctor, the captain of a football team, a university rector, and a trade unionist. M Edmond Maire, the secretary-general of the leftist CGT.

The Communists had protested against the fact that M Georges Seguy, the CGT leader, was not on the panel, and demanded that M Charles Fiterman, a leading member of the Communist hierarchy, should be included. This was refused down.

The organizers wanted to break away from the convention that if the CGT speaks for two minutes, the CGT must do so too. But the young activists of the Communist-dominated trade union were not going to allow M Maire to steal the show and speak for organized labour.

Things had started rather well. The young people pulled no punches. They opened fire on unemployment, which affects 700,000 of their number.

One of them, interrupted M Francois Doli, the president of the company L'Oréal, who was quoting Disraeli and asked: "Your firm made a profit of 350m francs (£32m). What are you going about hiring young people? In Saint-Denis, where I live, you employ 3,000 people a month. Part of your goods are produced abroad."

His question was punctuated by cheers. But at that point, about 100 youngsters in the gallery began chanting "The floor to the CGT", unfurled banners and threw handfuls of leaflets into the stalls. They had entered the hall with forged invitation cards.

The programme had been in progress barely for half an hour. In a moment pandemonium broke loose. The organizers of the second television channel threatened to bring it to an end.

M. Jean-Pierre Elkabbach, the director of information of Antenne 2, amid shouts of "Long live freedom", and "A France for youth with Marchais", declared indignantly: "You have just demonstrated to millions of Frenchmen your conception of freedom."

M. Maire spoke afterwards about a "commando operation" in which neither the youngsters, nor television viewers, nor the Communist Party have anything to gain.

The most frustrated by the performance were the 33 youngsters, who had prepared rough questions for weeks, and looked forward to making their voices heard. Some of them had come from the other end of France. They were on the verge of tears. After the television cameras had been switched off, an improvised debate took place between them and the panel.

A young farmer's wife, who had travelled from her remote village in the Pyrenees, was bursting with indignation. "I am fed up to the teeth with speeches, and abstract statements. I am on my tractor all day. Do they know the fate of women in the country? Tonight, I was going to get down on brass tacks. I was prevented. It is hell."

The outcry against the tactics of the CGT has been widespread. "Fascist methods," Mme Monique Pelletier, the Minister for Women's Affairs, who was on the panel, said afterwards.

The Communists remain daunted. M Seguy told an impromptu press conference today that M Maire had become the objective ally of the Government, the employers, and the "colonizers of information" by agreeing to be part of the panel. And M Fiterman insisted that the organizers had preferred to interrupt the show rather than allow a representative of the CGT to speak.

And for good measure the Communist newspaper L'Humanité today carried a banner headline which read "Antenne 2 and Europe One censure youth."

# Corsican group claims ministry bombing

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, Feb 17

A violent explosion last night caused extensive damage to the offices of the Ministry of Education in Rue de Bellechasse, near the Boulevard Saint-Germain, a policeman was slightly injured and all windows of the building on the right side of the street were shattered by the attack.

Five fire brigades were called to put out a fire which broke out among the files and documents in the damaged offices.

Responsibility for the bomb attack was claimed by the Corsican National Liberation Front, the militant separatist organization, in a telephone call to a French press agency.

The caller said the front had also carried out the recent attacks on the Italian tourist office, Orly car park, and the Bercy wine vaults.

"The FNLC, which stems from the Corsican people, and is at its service, will pursue in Corsica as in France, the struggle for national liberation."

We call upon the French people to support the cause and the struggle of the Corsican nation," the caller said.

The French people could not care less about it. M Christian Beullac, the Education Minister, summed up their feelings accurately when he said the cowardice of the attack was only equaled by its stupidity.

"It could have had far more serious consequences owing to the permanent presence of personnel and tenants in the building which was singled out for outrage."

# Eire mourns club fire victims

From Our Correspondent, Dublin

Flags flew at half mast throughout Ireland yesterday as the country mourned the 44 young people who died in the club fire in Dublin on Saturday. As part of a special day of mourning led by the Government, churches of all denominations organized Masses and memorial services.

Schools everywhere closed for at least part of the day so that teachers and pupils could attend religious services. Civil servants are allowed time off to attend. Dr Patrick Hillery, President of Ireland, and Mr Charles Haughey, the Prime Minister, attended a requiem Mass in the church in the parish in which the disaster took place. The

chief celebrant, the Archbishop of Dublin and Primate of Ireland, the Most Rev Dr Dermot Ryan, praised heroes who lost lives in the fire trying to rescue victims.

All over Dublin shops, offices and cafes opened late yesterday. Cinema cancelled afternoon performances and the National Theatre Company cancelled performances at the Abbey and Peacock theatres. Golf clubs remained closed until lunchtime.

Parliament sat for only a few minutes before adjourning and court sittings commenced later than usual.

Six of the fire victims were buried yesterday, four of them in Dublin, one in Co Meath and one in Belfast. At the city morgue, Dublin, the identifica-

tion of the victims continued. Two more people were identified yesterday, leaving 11 still unidentified.

"We are not as hopeful as we were originally of identifying everyone," Dr P. J. Bofin, the Dublin city coroner, said. "But I am still hoping that we will manage it."

Two dental experts are assisting a team of pathologists working at the morgue. Police inquiries into the cause of the fire are continuing. Many statements have been taken from survivors.

"We are still keeping an open mind on the cause of the fire," the police said last night.

A public inquiry into the disaster has already been announced by the Irish Government.

# Nash terrace restoration planned

John Young, Planning Reporter

After many years of neglect, the terrace under way for the restoration of Cambridge Terrace, Regent's Park, London. It is severely damaged by a war bomb and is partially ruined. The restoration, which will include the rebuilding of the terrace and the surrounding area, is planned to be completed by 1984.

The terrace, which was built in the 18th century, is one of the most important landmarks in Regent's Park. It is a fine example of 18th-century architecture and is a popular place for tourists and locals alike.

The restoration work will involve the rebuilding of the terrace and the surrounding area, including the gardens and the park. The work is being carried out by the City of London Corporation and the Regent's Park Trust.

The restoration is being funded by the City of London Corporation and the Regent's Park Trust. The work is expected to cost £10 million.

The restoration is being carried out in three phases. The first phase will involve the rebuilding of the terrace and the surrounding area. The second phase will involve the rebuilding of the gardens and the park. The third phase will involve the rebuilding of the park and the surrounding area.

The restoration is being carried out in a way that will preserve the original character of the terrace and the surrounding area. The work is being carried out in a way that will be in keeping with the original design of the terrace and the surrounding area.

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# Synod to debate covenant next week

## Anglo-Catholic opposition to church unity hardens

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Opposition to the church unity proposals to be debated by the General Synod of the Church of England next week has hardened among Anglo-Catholic members of the synod, with the publication of a new pamphlet by the Right Rev Graham Leonard, the "Catholic Group" of members will be urged to vote against, en bloc.

The three Anglo-Catholics who serve on the Church Council for the Covenant and who have already publicly dissented from the proposals, have now published *The Covenant: A Re-assessment*, a pamphlet setting out more arguments for rejecting the proposals. They are the Bishop of Truro, the Right Rev Graham Leonard; Canon Peter Boulton and Mr O. W. H. Clark.

The synod will be asked to agree that final approval of the proposals should require a 75 per cent majority of all members, in addition to the two-thirds majority in each house which the standing committee has recommended. That additional requirement, to be proposed by the Bishop of Wakefield, the Right Rev Colin James, is also likely to have Anglo-Catholic support.

The pamphlet takes the battle for the covenant into the other camp by discussing and then rejecting the pro-covenant theology of one of the Roman

Catholic consultants on the council, Father John Coventry, SJ. Supporters of the covenant have used Father Coventry's name and reputation to argue that the proposals are not anathema to the Roman Catholic Church, even though it is not itself taking part.

The pamphlet points out that another distinguished Roman Catholic theologian, the Right Rev B. C. Butler, does not accept Father Coventry's theory; and states that the other Roman Catholic consultant on the council, Father Denis Corbishley, is also unable to agree. But Father Corbishley has not yet committed himself in public.

In any case, the wording of the proposed covenanting service, is the pamphlet states, ambiguous at the crucial place. It does not indicate which of two interpretations of the word "recognition" is to be understood.

The three authors also object to the lack of any requirement that every minister of each participating church should take part in a form of covenanting service.

At present, the proposals envisage that a Free Church minister could gain full recognition of his ministry, in an Anglican sense, even if he does not attend such a service and merely refuses to register his decision to opt out. He would be deemed to have participated, and the Anglo-Catholics maintain that that raises serious doubts.

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# Planning application charges disclosed

Planning Reporter

The Government's charges for planning applications were published. Subject to parliamentary approval, they will take effect on April 1. They will be payable to authorities concerned. Government expects amount to about £38m, slightly more than half cost of maintaining development control here: will be no fees

for planning appeals.

All applications for outline planning permission will be charged at a rate of £40 for one tenth of a hectare, up to a maximum of £1,000.

For full applications the fees will be: £40 a unit for residential development (maximum £2,000); £40 for every 75 square metres of floor space for commercial and industrial buildings (maximum £2,000); £40 for each tenth of a hectare for the erection of plant and machinery

(maximum £2,000); and £20 for each tenth of a hectare for the excavation and working of minerals (maximum £3,000).

There will be a flat fee of £20 for such things as fences, shopfronts, house extensions and car parks, and of £40 for changes of use, playing fields and advertising hoardings. Disabled people applying for permission to improve access to the facilities of their homes will be exempt from paying fees.

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## WEST EUROPE

## No certainty of Calvo victory in Cortes

From Richard Wigg Madrid, Feb 17

Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo goes before Parliament tomorrow to seek a vote of confidence and so become, he hopes, Spain's next Prime Minister.

Today, however, he was still highly uncertain as to whether he could obtain enough votes. In spite of days of negotiating with the small parties in the Cortes he has failed to enlist the support of the 11 MPs required, together with the 165 of the Centre Democratic Union (UCD) can muster, to obtain a majority in the 350-member Lower House.

The Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) has been alienated by the death of Jose Ignacio Arregui, a suspected ETA terrorist, during nine days of interrogation by the Madrid police.

A party spokesman today indicated "at best" the PNV would abstain. It might vote "No" along with the Socialists and Communists, if Señor José Rosón, the outgoing Interior Minister, failed to give satisfactory answers to Parliament later today when questioned on the Arregui scandal.

## Police chiefs resign en masse as Spanish Parliament debates Basque suspect's death in custody

From Our Own Correspondent Madrid, Feb 17

The director-general of Spanish police, five chiefs of departments dealing with state security, and about 200 senior police officers resigned today.

Señor Juan José Rosón, the Minister of the Interior, said on radio tonight that he would not attempt to prevent the six leading officials from resigning.

He insisted, however, that the police chiefs would stay on until new heads of the security departments had been selected.

The resignations brought immediate tension for it was evident to all that the police chiefs, discontented for months about the fight against Basque terrorism, had moved just as Parliament began to debate responsibility for the death, while undergoing interrogation by Madrid police, of Señor José Ignacio Arregui, a suspected Basque terrorist.

Señor Manuel Ballesteros, the police intelligence chief, maintained that his resignation was for "professional and personal reasons" denying that it had anything to do with the Arregui case.

A poster put up today in one of Madrid's main police barracks had appealed for resignations en masse as an expression of solidarity with the five Madrid police inspectors who have been detained while an investigating magistrate examines them for allegedly conducting the interrogation sessions on Señor Arregui.

Señor Rosón, in the debate tonight, said that the Government was not aware of any abnormality in the Arregui case.

The news of the police resignations came as Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo was said to be putting the finishing touches to a speech he is to deliver tomorrow to Parliament before a vote of confidence. If he obtains a majority after a three-day debate he will become Spain's next Prime Minister.

The gravity of the police move lies in the fact that after the sudden resignation of Señor Adolfo Suárez on January 29, Spain has had only a caretaker Government pending Parliament's approval of a new Administration.

of Señor Arregui was spreading. It was disclosed today that Señor Isidro Erabe, another suspect arrested at the same time was held incommunicado in a basement cell with a bullet wound in his shoulder and was interrogated for 12 days before being taken to hospital.

Doctors at the Carabanchal prison hospital planned the operation today to remove the bullet.

A judge today ordered five policemen, arrested earlier in connection with the death after suspected torture, of Señor Arregui to be detained pending further investigation. A post-mortem examination showed that the deceased had burns on the soles of both feet and bruises all over his face and body.

Demonstrations and protest marches were held throughout the Basque region.

The huge turnout in yesterday's marches called by parties sympathizing with the ETA terrorist organization showed that the Madrid Government's control over public order in the Basque region was weakening.

## OVERSEAS



Mr Jacek Salecki, a student leader (centre) trying to quieten fellow students during a meeting at the Warsaw law school

## Polish students threaten national strike

From Dossa Trevisan Warsaw, Feb 17

Fears of a national student strike mounted as a last-minute hitch prevented an agreement between the authorities and the students' union. Another sticking point is the students' demand to the right to strike.

On the strike issue, Mr Janusz Gorski, the Education Minister and Government negotiator, insisted on a referendum, with prior notice of seven days. The students, however, demanded that the strike issue be worded in the same way as in the statutes of the Solidarity trade union.

They showed willingness to modify their stand, claiming that the Government was refusing to meet them to complete the negotiations. They asked other universities to back them up as the agreement would be valid for all Polish universities. The leadership of Solidarity has advised the students in favour of moderation and restraint.

running of universities has also been granted.

But the difficulty arose over the recognition of the leading role of the Communist Party which the authorities insist must be included in the statutes of the students' union. Another sticking point is the students' demand to the right to strike.

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straint and has shown little desire to give them more than moral backing.

The Government of General Jaruzelski is clearly anxious to settle the matter quickly. It has committed itself to negotiating all outstanding issues. In Rzeszow, southern Poland, where several hundred peasants have been occupying a public building since the beginning of this year, talks are progressing behind closed doors.

For the time being at least, the question of recognition of the Rural Solidarity union seems to have been put aside. But there are many open issues concerning the farmers directly which the Government negotiators are now trying to settle.

But the peasants are not likely to give up their demand for an autonomous organization. There is, however, a feeling that a compromise—a half-way house between a proper trade union and a professional association—may emerge especially since the Roman Catholic hierarchy has lent strong backing to the peasants' demand.

General Jaruzelski is now swiftly and his Government undergoing a thorough reorganization in order to make it more efficient. It is to red tape, said institute, a primary action against officials who are either deliberately curtailing losses for the economy.

Mr Stanislaw Kania, Communist Party's First Secretary, today travelled to Berlin for a briefing session with Herr Erich Honecker, East German party leader. Communiqué issued at the one issued after his Karlovy Vary talks in Prague.

Both communiques seemed intended to demonstrate Poland's relations with Warsaw Pact allies had not suffered serious damage as a result of the strains of rearmament.

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## EEC delays El Salvador aid decision

From Michael Hornsby Brussels, Feb 17

The European Community is to delay a decision on whether to send a package of emergency food and relief aid to El Salvador so as to give time for consultation with the United States.

An American mission, led by Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, the assistant Secretary of State, is touring European capitals to canvass support for the El Salvador junta.

Mr Eagleburger, who saw NATO ambassadors today and is to have talks with Mr Gaston Thorn, the President of the European Commission tomorrow, has also brought with him a mass of documentation on Soviet military aid to the left-wing guerrillas in El Salvador.

The Americans apparently fear that the Community aid which would be distributed to non-government organizations would find its way into the hands of the guerrillas. The aid includes about £200,000 of emergency relief of cereals and other foodstuffs.

Soviet arms: The United States State Department will issue a White Paper next week on the evidence of Soviet arms shipments reaching the rebels in El Salvador, Mr Eagleburger told the NATO Council in Brussels today, according to highly placed sources (Frederick Bonnant writes).

## Rioting by homeless in Naples

Naples, Feb 17.—Police used tear gas to disperse hundreds of earthquake survivors who blocked a motorway for two-and-a-half hours today demanding that their neighbourhood be made eligible for government disaster assistance.

Police said that rioting began at about 6 pm when about 50 youths, armed with wooden sticks and steel bars, broke shop windows in a central area of the city, causing panic among the mostly elderly residents living there.

A 61-year-old man, whose shop windows were destroyed, was reported to have suffered a heart attack, dying shortly after being taken to a hospital.

The demonstrators lit bonfires on the streets and others who were made homeless by the November 23 earthquake and by more recent tremors occupied a hotel and a religious institute.

Little progress has been made to rehouse the homeless. The Government has offered the survivors free hotel rooms on the coast, but most say they want to live near their jobs in Naples. Many of them are living in schools, railway coaches or docked ships, according to official statistics.

The British Red Cross is sending 25 specially produced Land-Rovers worth £550,000 to southern Italy to help mountain villages devastated by earthquakes.—AP and UPI.

## Reagan poll pledge may be broken

From Frank Vogl US Economics Correspondent Washington, Feb 17

President Reagan has decided to back away from his election campaign pledge to cut income taxes by 30 per cent in three equal annual instalments. It is likely that the President will announce only a 5 per cent income tax cut by 1984, and 10 per cent by 1985.

The President will announce his economic programme tomorrow. He has apparently decided that a full 10 per cent income tax cut this year would produce too great a loss of revenue to the Treasury and dangerously widen the budget deficit. Further, he has apparently decided to modify earlier proposals to give particularly large tax cuts to better-off Americans.

The New York Times reported today that one of the prime architects of President Reagan's earlier tax proposals, Congressman Jack Kemp of New York,

is angry that the President is not advocating the full 10 per cent income tax cut immediately, and he plans to propose changes to the President's proposals as soon as Congress starts work on the Tax Bill.

Mr Donald Regan, the Secretary of the Treasury, also appears to have been overruled by the President in his suggestion that the President should cut income tax from 70 per cent in the maximum tax rate on unearned investment income. The President has decided that this reduction should be phased in over three years.

Assorted versions of just what tax plans the President will announce were reported in American newspapers today. It does seem clear that the pledged income tax cut of 30 per cent will be spread over four years, with 5 per cent cuts this year, 1984, and 10 per cent cuts in 1985 and 1986.

The Wall Street Journal suggested that the tax cuts will result in revenue losses to the Treasury of \$8,000m to \$9,000m this year and of \$50,000m next year. It also reported that the economic forecasts accompanying the President's proposals will show a balanced budget in 1984, along with 5.5 per cent inflation and 5 per cent real economic growth in that year.

There is no doubt, however, that quite generous improvements in business depreciation allowances will be made retroactive to January 1 of this year. Salary freezes: Mr Reagan today asked members of Congress, the judiciary and top federal government executives to forgo scheduled salary increases recommended by the Civil Service Commission (UPI reports from Washington).

"The President decided in light of the economic conditions not to seek increases in federal executive salaries," Mr Jim Brady, the White House press secretary, said. The decision also applies to the federal judiciary.

He said some of the increases were expected to run as high as 40 per cent.

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The atrocities committed by Indian Harjians have been a popular subject for discussion in Parliament and since, but it had never caused violence in the House. In the Arab towns and villages the flood of Israeli produce is visible everywhere, with prices in the crowded Arab souqs usually quoted in Israeli shekels and the high-valued Jordanian dinar little in evidence except as a means of keeping savings.

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## Greek airman has nose put out of joint

From Our Own Correspondent Athens, Feb 17

The Greek airman really no business doing his pull on the nose-rip of one of the French-built Mirage jets, stopped to refuel in Greece en route for Iraq.

The nose-rip bent and the airman's efforts he is not straighten it. So, he is the tips of the other three craft in the hope that original clumsiness would be detected.

What was even more embarrassing for the Greek Government was the revelation the four Mirage jets, which were later delivered to Iraqis at Larnaca, Cyprus, had discreetly refused at a Greek airport.

So the Greek Government put out a flat denial in "The whole story is pure fiction", a spokesman said.

## The West Bank-2: GNP increases 10 per cent a year since occupation

## Palestinians fear growing reliance on Israel

From Christopher Walker Jerusalem, Feb 17

On the mornings of every week Sayid, a tough looking former guerrilla fighter with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, leaves this squalid refugee camp to begin the hour's drive across the pre-1967 boundary to his job in an Israeli factory near Tel Aviv.

By one of those ironies peculiar to the Middle East, his work involves building prefabricated housing units which are later sold for use in the new Jewish settlements which have been mushrooming in the occupied West Bank. Other Arabs from the camp work in the same factory, each receiving about £3 a day in wages, with a further 50p withheld for Israeli health insurance and taxes.

"I hate my job like I hate the dirt on my clothes," explained Sayid, who at the age of 23 has already served a two-year sentence in an Israeli jail for a security offence. "I realize that I am helping to build the walls that oppress the Palestinians; but it is the only work I could find. I have to eat and so does my family."

By virtue of his type of employment, Sayid is an extreme and telling example of the rapidly growing interdependence between the West Bank and Israeli economies. According to the latest estimates, he is one of more than 75,000 West Bankers who commute regularly to Israel about 35 per cent of the occupied territory's total workforce of 217,000.

Morning and night, fleets of antiquated buses carrying the Arab labourers travel to and from all the West Bank towns, providing Israel with a valuable pool of unskilled and cheap labour. Although forming only about 6 per cent of Israel's total workforce, the workers in Israel's construction the West Bank Arabs provide about 30 per cent of the industry.

Parallel to this boom in unskilled employment, lack of investment in the West Bank has resulted in a severe shortage of jobs there for the growing number of skilled or educated Palestinians. This has combined with the lure of high salaries in the oil-rich Gulf states to accelerate immigration among this social class to record levels.

Since 1967 the West Bank economy has become more and more integrated with that of Israel, the neighbouring occupying power. The growth of dependence has been the price paid by the Arabs for an unprecedented increase in local prosperity, marked both by a dramatic rise in the ownership of consumer durables and much improved services such as roads, telephones and electricity.

International researchers now estimate that the area's gross national product, combined with that of the occupied Gaza Strip, has risen by about 10 per cent a year during the Israeli occupation, reaching its present level of about £400m. The improvement in living standards is a point repeatedly emphasized by Israeli officials anxious to defend the Government's record in the West Bank.

Many Palestinian leaders fear that the economic dependence could be one of the most telling factors enabling Israel to maintain its hold over the West Bank, with much of the blame laid at the door of the Arab states who are accused of failing to provide sufficient economic aid.

"We no longer have a real economy, we are simply being converted into a market to consume Israeli goods and services," claimed Mr Elias Freij, the Mayor of Bethlehem and president of its chamber of commerce. "There has been a complete failure to build up the economic infrastructure which might serve a future Palestinian state."

Economic experts calculated that 90 per cent of the West Bank's imports now come from Israel. In the Arab towns and villages the flood of Israeli produce is visible everywhere, with prices in the crowded Arab souqs usually quoted in Israeli shekels and the high-valued Jordanian dinar little in evidence except as a means of keeping savings.

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OVERSEAS

# Mr Reagan says US will honour in every possible respect hostage agreements with Iran

From David Cross  
Washington, Feb 17  
After nearly four weeks of intensive scrutiny by his Administration, President Reagan has decided to honour in every possible respect the controversial agreements concluded by former President Carter for the release of the 52 American hostages from Iran.

Announcing this today, Senator Charles Percy, chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, said the President Reagan and his advisers had decided to accept and implement fully the agreements because this would be in the best interests of the United States.

Full details of the reasons behind the new Administration's decision would be announced in the next few days, he said.

Senator Percy was opening the first of what will be a whole series of congressional hearings into the events surrounding the 14-month hostage crisis. His committee is looking principally at the details of the final agreements which have become known as the Algiers declarations.

The documents which were signed in the Algerian capital in the final hours of President Carter's Administration last month provided among other points, for the return to Iran of part of its assets frozen in the United States.

In another hearing room on Capitol Hill, the foreign affairs committee of the House of Representatives today began a separate investigation into the

affair beginning with the seizure of the American Embassy in Tehran in November 1979. Yet another hearing by the Senate banking committee into the financial ramifications of the Algiers declarations is due to open on Thursday.

During today's Senate hearing, Senator Percy said that he applauded the decision by President Reagan and Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, to honour the agreements concluded by their predecessors. It showed the world that the United States had full continuity of government, he said.

The chairman of the foreign relations committee who is a moderate Republican, also fulsomely congratulated Mr Edmund Muskie, the former Secretary of State, and Mr Warren Christopher, his former deputy, for their extraordinary skill in handling the negotiations for the release of the hostages.

"The country owes a debt of gratitude to you and President Carter," he told the two men who appeared as witnesses at today's opening hearing.

By all accounts, however, Senator Percy's enthusiasm for the agreements is not shared by President Reagan and his senior advisers. They are reported to have agreed to honour the Algiers declarations somewhat grudgingly, largely because they want to put the affair behind them and to avoid reopening wounds to American prestige which have just begun to heal.

Several members of the Senate foreign relations committee,

particularly conservative Republicans like Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina and Senator Sam Hayakawa of California, made it clear at today's hearings that they shared these misgivings.

Senator Helms asked Mr Christopher pointedly whether he thought an agreement obtained under duress had any legal validity, while Senator Hayakawa said that the basic tone of the Algiers declarations implied that the United States was the villain and Iran the aggrieved party.

The main objections put forward by the critics to the agreements focus on provisions to assist Iran in legal suits undertaken to the United States to seek the return of property belonging to the late Shah and members of his family, as well as steps to prevent the former hostages from suing the Iranian authorities for personal damages during their confinement.

There is also some dissatisfaction at the plan contained in the Algiers declarations to set up an international claims tribunal to rule on claims for damages taken out against Iran by American firms.

Both Mr Muskie and Mr Christopher argued convincingly at today's Senate hearing that the United States had emerged from the crisis with its honour intact. The former Secretary of State thought the whole unfortunate episode would be seen in retrospect as "a sound and successful application of our preference for settling disputes by peaceful means".

## Ayatollah Khomeini's son attacks ruling party

From Tony Alloway  
Tehran, Feb 17  
Hojatoleslam Ahmad Khomeini, the son of Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian leader, has made a vehement denunciation of those who condone violence to suppress opposition.

The morning newspaper Mizan today carried a lengthy letter from Hojatoleslam Khomeini to Parliament which was a thinly disguised attack on the Muslim fundamentalists who rule Iran.

"It cannot be the case that no one is secure in this country except those who obey the club-wielders," he said, using a term that generally describes the "followers of the party of God" who have repeatedly taken to the streets to silence moderate and leftist opposition to the fundamentalists.

"The current of club-wielding is one of the worst and most horrifying problems and if we do not rise to cure it quickly, nothing will remain. It will overcome all political currents," he said.

The hojatoleslam does not necessarily reflect his father's opinion. Last June Ayatollah Khomeini gave his son a public dressing-down after he had sprung to the defence of a leftist-Islamic group.

If the ayatollah keeps his silence, it would signal affirmation of his son's indirect attack on the dominant Islamic Republican Party (IRP) and Ayatollah Muhammad Beheshti, the party leader. Hojatoleslam Khomeini accused Parliament and the judiciary—which Ayatollah Beheshti heads, as



An Iranian soldier uses a cable to drag a wounded comrade to safety during fighting with Iraqi forces in the Iranian town of Hoveysch.

Supreme Court Chief-of-indifference to such violence. He also accused the fundamentalists of using "the Imam's line"—the authority of Ayatollah Khomeini which the fundamentalists say they follow—as a pretext for eliminating all rival groups. "No brothers, step down, throw out the love of power, position and fame and then you will see you are absolutely ignorant," he said.

The letter was written in response to attacks by fundamentalists at the weekend on

two meetings organized by Ayatollah Hassan Lahouti, an MP who supports President Bani-Sadr in his fight against the IRP.

Some newspapers have said an assassination attempt was involved, but there is no evidence to support this. Reports indicate that when Ayatollah Lahouti attempted to speak in the Caspian Sea town of Rasht, his meeting was broken up by fundamentalists who took him prisoner in a house for two hours.

The day after this news was fired as a gang broke up a similar meeting. Ayatollah Lahouti's wife was dragged from her car and assaulted.

Hojatoleslam Khomeini described Ayatollah Lahouti as a man "tortured in (the Shah's) prisons more than all the other clergymen" and he criticized two of the country's leading newspapers, Kaghaz and Ettelaat which are backed by the fundamentalists, and the official radio and television for not reporting the attack.

## Tehran rules out deal on detained Britons

By David Spanier  
Diplomatic Correspondent  
Any idea that the four Britons held in Iran might be released as part of a bargain, like the American hostages, was firmly and categorically denied by a senior Iranian official yesterday.

The four were not hostages and there was no question of a "price" for their release, he said. They were held on accusations of spying and it was up to the Department of Justice how their case was resolved.

These latest comments on the detained Britons made by Dr Ghafori, governor of the province of Khuzestan, who is leading a mission to London on the occasion of the second anniversary of the Iranian revolution, were a direct rebuff to the British.

Speaking at the offices of the Iranian Oil Company yesterday, where an exhibition on the revolution will be held next weekend, Dr Ghafori said he had no details of the charges against the four. He indicated that the allegations against them covered matters such as "making contact with opposition groups" and "giving information which involved the security of the country".

Despite persistent questioning, however, Dr Ghafori had little new to add about the situation of the hostages.

So far as Western arms were concerned, the Iranian Government had made it clear it was ready to buy from any country ready to sell to it, he said, provided no conditions were imposed.

## Zimbabwe to disarm both guerrilla factions

From Nicholas Ashford  
Salisbury, Feb 17  
The 22,000 Zanla and Zipra former guerrillas who have not yet been integrated into the new Zimbabwean National Army are to be "systematically disarmed" after last week's factional insurrection in Matobo.

This was announced today by Mr Emmerson Mnangagwa, the recently promoted military supreme and chairman of the Joint High Command which comprises the leaders of the former Zanla and Zipra guerrilla armies as well as the former Rhodesian security forces.

Mr Mnangagwa did not say how long the disarming process would take but said that it had already begun with the disarming over the past two days of Zanla and Zipra guerrillas who were involved in the bloody shoot-out in Enumbame township in Bulawayo which resulted in about 150 deaths.

The continued existence of two heavily armed rival forces has been one of the main problems facing the Government of Mr Robert Mugabe since Zimbabwe became independent last April. There have been a number of violent incidents involving the two forces including a pitched battle between them in Entumbane last November.

If the guerrillas are now being successfully disarmed, this should go some way to preventing a repetition of the sort of factional fighting experienced last week.

The minister gave warning

that tough action would be taken against any former guerrilla who tried to hide weapons while the disarming process was taking place.

Mr Mnangagwa said he did not plan to make any changes in the present British-run programme to form the two guerrilla forces into integrated battalions despite the factional violence which took place in three of the battalions last week.

Equal numbers of Zanla and Zipra are being amalgamated into each of the new battalions. The two rival groups within the three battalions affected by the violence have since been separated in order to allow time for passions to cool; but the minister made it clear that they would be reintegrated at a later date.

Four disciplinary commissions are being set up to look into last week's unrest. The minister said their job would be to establish the identity of those guilty of offences against military discipline, to find out who the ringleaders were and recommend what disciplinary action should be taken against them.

The composition of the commissions will be similar to the Joint High Command. Each will consist of two senior officers from Zanla and Zipra and two from the former security forces.

Mr Mnangagwa gave warning that any further attempt to disrupt the national army would be dealt with "with the full strength of the resources now available to the Joint High Command".

## Afghan insurgents await melting of snow to step up war on Russians

From Trevor Fishlock  
Peshawar, Feb 17  
In their second year of fighting the Soviet Army of occupation, Afghan guerrillas are evidently in good heart.

Judging by the demeanour of the men passing through the frontier city of Peshawar, the appetite for the struggle remains as strong as ever. Insurgent groups say they are looking forward to the melting of the snows next month and intensification of the war.

In spite of their losses, the guerrillas feel they have not done too badly in the past year. Although their weaponry is no match for the enemy's advanced equipment, especially the tanks and helicopter gunships, they feel that their fighting performance shows they can endure for many years.

If they are disappointed by the message response to their appeals for arms to the West and the Islamic world they do not disclose it to outsiders.

Some weapons, mostly rifles, have been getting through to them, but they have not been sent the requested anti-tank and anti-aircraft guns, missiles and rockets.

The Mujahidin guerrillas are no better armed than they were

a year ago. But they have grown to recognise that to a large extent they have to rely on their own resources. With a dash of bravado they are asserting their independence and say they no longer want to be seen begging for arms. This attitude results also from their growing confidence in their ability to hold their own against immense odds.

"As long as there are Russians in Afghanistan we shall have no difficulty in getting the weapons we need", a spokesman for Hezbe Islami, one of the largest of the Peshawar-based insurgent groups, said today.

"It is true we are short of anti-aircraft and anti-tank guns. But, insha Allah (God willing), all these things will be captured from the Russians in time. Look at our men; they are armed by the Russians and clothed by the Afghan Army."

Soviet automatic rifles are by no means uncommon sight in certain parts of Peshawar. And scores of Afghans look rather jaunty in smart, new Afghan army coats and jackets.

Inside Afghanistan, rifles are occasionally taken from dead soldiers, but are more often either brought over to the

Mujahidin by men defecting from the ramshackle Afghan Army, or sold and bartered by Afghan and Soviet soldiers.

Guns are sometimes given in exchange for marijuana, and the development of the clandestine arms trade in Afghanistan has pushed down the price of ammunition for Soviet-made Kalashnikov rifles to about 12p a round in some areas. In other parts, however, bullets are scarce.

A Kalashnikov rifle can be bought on the frontier for not less than \$1,500. But, according to one of the insurgent groups, it can cost a quarter of that price inside Afghanistan.

Many Mujahidin still fight with the Lee Enfield 303, a familiar sight in this region. It is still manufactured in considerable quantity on the frontier, although the quality of materials means that the life of many of these guns is limited.

Nevertheless, the tribesman's mastery of, and familiarity with, rifle and terrain, as well as their stamina, love of fighting and murderous hatred of Russian "infidels", help them to reduce the gap created by the mismatch of fire power.

"The Russians certainly have the better equipment," the

from Jalalabad, and fairly close to the Pakistan border, have been reduced to rubble and its people have fled. The Kunar valley, along which Alexander the Great marched to what is now northern Pakistan, has received particular attention from the Russians.

There was a heavy influx of refugees into the North-West Frontier Province in December and January, bringing the number there to 1,200,000 settled in 250 camps. Another 250,000 are in Baluchistan, to the south.

A larger number of the new arrivals are in poorer health than among their predecessors and more are suffering from malnutrition. This evidence, as well as reports of food shortages and the destruction of crops by the Russians, seem to justify concern among some of the insurgent groups that food may become a problem for them in the months ahead.

In spite of the continuing exodus from Afghanistan, the relationship between refugees and local people in the frontier region remains fairly harmonious. There were some squabbles over land and water and some gunfights, last year, but there have been no comparable

incidents for some months. The tradition of hospitality among Pathans, and a feeling of Muslim kinship, seem to be smoothing frictions. Pakistan is host to one of the world's largest refugee communities as more than one-fifth of Afghanistan's population has fled here.

The loose grouping of insurgent groups in Peshawar has, to no one's surprise, finally crumbled. It existed, essentially, on paper, having been formed in an attempt to present a united front, especially to the Arab world, as a way of attracting money for guns.

The differences in outlook between the leaders made frugal political and personality clashes between the leaders made fragmentation inevitable. There are about 10 main groups or parties based in Peshawar, and perhaps a dozen smaller ones. Their philosophies range from Hezbe Islami's fundamentalism to moderate democratic liberalism.

The Hezbe Islami spokesman said: "The removal of the Russians is only part of the struggle. Once they have been driven out, once Babrak Karmal has fallen, our goal is to create an Islamic state in Afghanistan."

## General says 500 Soviet tanks threaten S Africa

From Ray Kennedy  
Johannesburg, Feb 17  
More than 500 Russian tanks are poised close to South Africa's borders ready to launch a conventional attack on the country, according to General Magnus Malan, the new Defence Minister.

The general, who was formerly chief of the armed forces, made the claim in Parliament in his maiden speech. He still has to win a seat, although presumably that will come at the general election on April 29.

General Malan's speech was pretty hot stuff even by South African standards. Reds under the bed there must be; after the regular appearances on television of Mr R. F. Botha, the Foreign Minister, there can be few South Africans who do not take a peek under the bedstead at night to ensure a peaceful night's rest. But tanks—that is another ball game.

According to General Malan, in Angola there are 300 Russian tanks, 350 Russian armoured cars and 400 infantry combat vehicles, and a considerable number of fighter aircraft, including Mig21s.

In Mozambique, he said,

there were 250 Russian tanks, 400 armoured cars, Mig21 aircraft and anti-aircraft weapons.

It added up to a direct threat of conventional assault against South Africa, it was one reason, he said, why South African forces had recently attacked a headquarters base of the African National Congress at Matola, near the Mozambican capital of Maputo.

Managing director of the newspaper, he urged neighbouring states to accept the offers by Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister, of non-aggression pacts—or else. They would lose any fight against South African forces, he said.

Nobody challenged General Malan's figures, for presumably South African military intelligence in this regard is good.

Nobody, for instance, asked the general about the range of a Russian tank—how it will get from Angola to South Africa, through Namibia (South-West Africa).

Still, Generals are not accustomed to having their opinions questioned and weary parliamentarians were obviously being nice to him.

## Croat nationalist on trial for political interviews

Belgrade, Feb 17.—The first important trial of a political dissident in Yugoslavia since the death of President Tito last May started today in the north-western city of Zagreb.

Tanjung news agency said former Army General Frapjo Tudjman, a Croatian nationalist, was charged with "maliciously and falsely representing social conditions" in the country in interviews with foreign media.

In October, 1972, Mr Tudjman was sentenced to two years imprisonment for "criminal acts against the state and people". He had claimed that nationalism in Croatia, one of the six republics and two autonomous provinces that make up federal Yugoslavia, was being brutally suppressed. The sentence was reduced to three years on appeal and he served nine months.

He now faces up to 10 years in jail on the new charges, which arise from interviews he gave in January about his last year to West German television and French radio.

The Yugoslav authorities confiscated the tapes of the interviews, which were never broadcast, but the prosecutor said they nevertheless constituted "hostile propaganda".

Mr Tudjman had said in the interviews that Croatia was neglected by the federal Government and that anyone who stood up for Croatian rights was branded either a separatist or a nationalist conservative.

He said in a deposition published earlier that his remarks had been taken out of context. Legal sources in Zagreb said that the charges were created by the misinterpretation of his remarks for about three days.—Reuter.

## Front-line African summit condemns Pretoria raids

Lusaka, Feb 17.—Five Southern African leaders today condemned South Africa for its continued military attacks on neighbouring states and for the failure of last month's Geneva talks on independent peoples of Namibia (South-West Africa).

The presidents of Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, said in a communiqué issued after five hours of talks in Lusaka that they were deeply concerned by "South Africa's

destabilization policy in the region".

The five leaders were joined in mid-session by an Angolan delegation led by Mr Pasqual Lunyulo, a member of the Politburo of the ruling MPLA, and by Mr Sam Nujoma, the president of the South-West Africa People's Organization.

In their communiqué, the leaders singled out for specific condemnation what they called South Africa's continued training of dissidents from Angola, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.—Reuter.

## Ministers fall out in Thailand over oil negotiations

From Neil Kelly  
Bangkok, Feb 17  
A political dispute involving three Cabinet ministers has broken out in Thailand where the Government has terminated nine years early a foreign company's lease of an oil refinery.

All political parties and the military support the Government's action, the first of its kind against a foreign company in Thailand, but related events have caused bitter arguments and may lead to Cabinet changes. A senior minister threatened to dismiss his deputy and another said that the actions of the junior minister should be investigated by the anti-corruption committee.

General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Prime Minister, last Saturday abruptly terminated the 25-

year lease to the Summit Industrial Corporation (Panama) of the Bangkok refinery which refines 65,000 barrels a day, 40 per cent of Thailand's refinery capacity.

He criticized the company for the way it ran the refinery and accused it of having frequently broken the terms of its agreement with the Government.

Labour disputes which are rare in Thailand have been frequent at the refinery and recent governments have blamed the management for the lease. The termination of the lease came after the arbitrary dismissal of 20 workers which threatened to cause violent reaction elsewhere.

The Government had not felt confident about ending the lease, until its own crude oil supplies were assured. General

Chatichai Choonhavan, Minister of Industry, went to Saudi Arabia and concluded a contract for the necessary supplies.

On his return, he accused "hooded men" in the Cabinet of sabotaging his negotiations by sending Telex messages to the Saudi Government, saying that he was not authorized to negotiate for oil. The Prime Minister had to send a personal message to the Saudi Government denying the allegations.

Later it was disclosed that Mr Visit Tansacha, the Deputy Minister of Industry, had been separately negotiating with a Hongkong trading company for Saudi Arabian oil which was to cost Thailand an extra \$4 (£1.66) a barrel in commission to the Hongkong company.

Mr Visit who has been

threatened with dismissal and investigation by the anti-corruption committee, said today: "Reports of scandals in oil deals are unfounded."

The Summit company is registered in Panama. Its head office is in New York but its shareholders listed as "unavailable" remain a mystery. A Hongkong Chinese naturalized in Thailand, is the managing director.

Colonel Chamlong Srimuang, secretary general to the Prime Minister, accused the company's management of "acting as if they are the owners of Thailand."

The company has a marketing subsidiary which operates 300 petrol stations in Thailand but, its activities are unlikely to be affected.

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THE ARTS

# Colin Davis at his best in revealing Berg's sensuality

Lulu  
Covent Garden

William Mann

Although Alban Berg's second opera *Lulu* has never been seen at Covent Garden until Monday night, there have been numerous performances of it elsewhere in Britain, usually by guest companies from abroad, but including one production, by Welsh National Opera, in English translation. They were all of the incomprehensible score in two acts, a 1935, sometimes with a fragmentary third act built out of the composer's concert suite. It was known even then that the opera was virtually complete, but Berg's widow refused to let the third act be handled by another musician. Since her death the Austrian composer Friedrich Cerha has brought out his own completion, with the blessing of Berg's publishers. The first complete *Lulu* as a British Opera all but two years ago, confirming the necessity of the third act. It only because Berg's obsession with symmetry and structure demanded the completion of a musical and dramatic design. The Paris production was recorded, and has allowed us all to get the music of the third act into our bones. There have been subsequent productions too, one of them by Günter Reich, who now directs his revised version for the Royal Opera, and has been able to recruit to it singers already experienced in the three-act *Lulu*. His musical collaborator here is in a tremendous interpretation of Wagner's *Ring*, Sir Colin Davis. Covent Garden's new integral *Lulu* bears their joint

hall mark: it is distinguished, not quite flawless, but already an interpretation worth experiencing several times, and by then the flaws may have been ironed out. Davis has proved himself a sympathetic and illuminating interpreter of Berg's music, with his account of Wozzeck here and in New York. He has much to bring to the score of *Lulu*, dancing lilt and keen characterization in "novelty" numbers, those essays in particular genres, whether borrowed from earlier opera or from jazz, as in the nightclub scene which ends the first act. Chiefly Davis concentrates on the sensuality of Berg's music, as Berg suggested with the remark that "only through an understanding of the sensual can one arrive at a true idea of the human psyche" and on its long spans of design, and progressively the enlightenment of musical reprise. That exquisitely lyrical interlude after the second scene of Act I might have appeared cold or understated, but at the last return of that music in the final scene Davis forged an overwhelming climax for the plight of the earth-spirit, as Wedekind called *Lulu*, and the "largest liaison was appreciated." Even more remarkable was Davis's taut grip on the various concerned ensembles in the gaming scene which begins Act III. A great deal goes on, some vocal lines as foreground, others in support: the balance and interplay were brilliantly sustained under complete and natural control. As the evening progressed so it was plain that whatever Friedrich was doing with the drama Davis was doing with the music: a signal example would be Alwa's long solo towards the end of the second act, the tension completely sustained, even



Günter Reich as Dr. Schön and Karan Armstrong as Lulu

with an Alwa (Ryszard Karczykowski) whose tenor is more lyric than dramatic. Friedrich, and his designer Timothy O'Brien, set *Lulu* in a cross between a zoo, with cages, and a prison with wire-netted corridors and doors. The opera begins with the Ringmaster parading his bestial charges, dressed as they will later appear. Rodrigo to a rugby shirt, Schön in businessman's dress, the Artist in his tunic, Lulu, wearing her bestial, recumbent, black snake-skin swaddling tunic. The snake-skin remains a permanent feature of the outfit, like Lulu's portrait and the prison corridors, hardly noticed in the Artist's modish living room, or in Dr. Schön's house, with its practicable two-storey lift (useful and atmospheric), and of the second act, the nightclub scene, where dancers

concealed everywhere, with a dashing sense of humour, not least in the obsessed behaviour of Dr. Schön, and everywhere Friedrich is ready to accept the fantastic, ironical element in the plot and its character. Karan Armstrong, musically a virtuoso Lulu in her response to a long and taxing part, deserved all the copious cheers afterwards, not least because she had hurt herself during rehearsal and suffered further injury in the first act on Monday. Yet her Lulu, from the outset, is a more openly lascivious creature than Wedekind's child of nature or Berg's capricious girl. She offers plenty of leg-show, and a splendid transformation from the cholera-infected invalid to the perfectly healthy heroine of "O Frelheit" after her escape from prison. Her half-spoken confession of love to Dr. Schön was ideally pitched between speech and song. Lulu's entourage of lovers is led by Günter Reich's masterful Dr. Schön; Georg Pücker's comical Athlete and the jovial, satirical Schigolch of Erik Sæden give strong support, as does Emil Belcourt in three contrasting roles. Countess Geschwitz is palely portrayed by Glensy Lino, and Robin Leggate's Palatur makes as yet an innocuous impression. But in a large cast there are no really weak members. I do wish that O'Brien had more firmly located Lulu's last abode indoors: where the Paris production set it in a suburban lavatory, here she appears to live on a flat roof, equally unconvincing, but easily corrected. For the whole achievement of the production there can be little but gratitude and admiration.

## Aspects of Max Wall's Garrick

Irving Wardle

One little number that has dropped out of Max Wall's act is his awfully catchphrase, "He is all over the place nowadays, familiar alike to Beckett and Coronation Street audiences, and more securely entrenched as a national institution than any comic since George Robey. However, dangerous this might be for a younger artist, it is no less the case of the old party in the baggy black tights. If there are any fears that he might be going dignified or getting topical, they are squashed as flat as the flea that interrupts his Rachmaninov solo by his first walk-on, executing a chain of paralytic entractas, and culminating in a flourish of the sweetly smiling, cracker snarl of Wall-Hyde: his disgruntled reaction to laughter at sags he despises; and the free-wheeling at lib he may or may not lead him back on to the rails. He treats the house partly as a showbiz intimates, and partly as innocents to whom he is spilling the professional beans: either stooping to what he calls "the thinking" ("You've noticed I've gone serious"), or explaining exactly what he is doing. "You see what I'm getting at? I've led you back in the focal point of the whole thing," he says; then the eyes go up in hopes that he is wasting his breath on us.

But there are no belly laughs in his two and a quarter hours, and no routine that goes on for longer than a couple of

minutes. An act is something foisted on the people it happens to; and Mr Wall's speciality is not domination but contact. When he wants, and what the spectator wants, is simply for him to be in public.

Those who saw the Aspects last time round will be pleased to learn that he still attacks the grand piano as if fresh from Dr. Frankenstein's operating table and takes several stunned minutes to recover from the suicidally prolonged trumpet call at the end of his act. The Aspects are also lightning impressions of Charles Laughton, Jessie Matthews, and a cocker spaniel; evocations of Mr Wall's first love, and memories of standing in for indisposed German girls on the Follies Bergeres staircase. But the fun always lies in between the sags: in a transformation of the sweetly smiling, cracker snarl of Wall-Hyde into the disgruntled reaction to laughter at sags he despises; and the free-wheeling at lib he may or may not lead him back on to the rails.

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## Do Not Disturb ICA

Ned Chaillet

In Cardiff there is an ambitious and frequently delightful arts centre known as Project Arts, which regularly offers residences to some of the more experimental theatrical troupes. A company which has recently benefited from a residency there is Hestiate and guests separately enjoy the results. The activities range from the People Show and Robert Wilson. The special quality they have is a feminine vision and with it they paint dramatic pictures, largely without words. *Do Not Disturb* is the result of their work at Project Arts and it makes for an evocative and haunting evening, although it challenges traditional concepts of drama. Their environment for the performance is particularly elaborate and beautiful, an old English family home that has been converted into a country house hotel. It is first seen as if by moonlight, when a guest arrives with suitcases in hand, walking through autumn leaves

while within there are traces of movements such as a hand at a curtain which includes an opened to reveal some of the inner rooms where people meet or go quietly about their business.

No one speaks in the production, but there is a constant sound track which includes abstractly related to the stage pictures. More often the sound is musical, but it includes also dogs barking, vacuum cleaners, chatter in the hallways and a jumble of breakfast news bulletins as two guests separately enjoy the results. The activities range from the People Show and Robert Wilson. The special quality they have is a feminine vision and with it they paint dramatic pictures, largely without words. *Do Not Disturb* is the result of their work at Project Arts and it makes for an evocative and haunting evening, although it challenges traditional concepts of drama. Their environment for the performance is particularly elaborate and beautiful, an old English family home that has been converted into a country house hotel. It is first seen as if by moonlight, when a guest arrives with suitcases in hand, walking through autumn leaves

## Canto General Tanz-Forum, Cologne

John Percival

The unmistakable features of sambar Kingdom Brazil gaze out from one of the illustrations in the programme book of Canto General. Jochen Ulrich's extraordinary dance-drama for Tanz-Forum, the dance company of the Opera House, Cologne. Brude is roared in splendid Victorian splendour against a black background of the huge chains of its steamship, the Great Eastern. No, he is not actually a character in the ballet, but is there as a symbol of one aspect of European civilisation.

For the theme of *Canto General* is nothing less than the clash of cultures of two continents, the effect on South America of its conquest by the white man and his values. Inspired by what Ulrich saw when he company toured Latin America two or three years ago, the work is based upon Neruda's poem of the same title. The scale of the ballet is as ambitious as its content, lasting two hours with an interval.

The first of its five episodes is an evocation of Inca civilisation. At this stage the ballet here is no attempt at realism. Johannes Fritsch's score is related to medieval or early Renaissance music rather than a specifically ethnic sources, suggesting the remote time in preference to the exotic. Ulrich's choreography indicates the ritualism and formality of a culture which we can recognise but hardly understand. The dances are ceremonious but simple, using a few accessories to imply the masks and headresses of this lost culture. The mood is tranquil, even when a vanishing body and a rumbling red cloak symbolize a human sacrifice. That atmosphere is broken by the arrival of the conquistadors, who break their way through a wall at one side of the stage with elaborate courtly manners and an intolerant attitude, religious trappings and deadly weapons, against which the Indians fight back in vain.

In each successive scene the work becomes more modern, more naturalistic. The steps have been suggested by an Inca temple are disfigured with advertising slogans, then reversed to turn into the mean houses in which fighters for freedom huddle to hide from the political police. The steps become more and more cramped; dancing becomes more difficult as the spirit of the people is hemmed in. Yet that spirit struggles and survives to the last.

Ulrich and his composer make telling use of irony to underline the theme. The tango emerges in the score during a scene where diplomats and politicians gaze admiringly at a museum exhibit of the native culture that has been trampled almost out of existence. Even when preparing for battle, the European invaders, hand their ladies down from the ships with proud gallantry.

The conquistadors are led by a strange, almost anonymously sinister figure, played by a woman in man's clothes. Lutz van der Straeten performs this role with chilling cruelty, her movements coldly sharp, her face impassively stern. The other leading woman's role, called simply *The Woman*, has her great moment when she changes from Eva-like glamour into a simple dress,



Lutz van der Straeten

with her hair loose, to lead a dance of triumph for short-lived freedom. Svenborg Alexander brings splendid fervour to this.

Ulrich identifies Neruda with the spirit of the oppressed people and has as his leading male character a poet who has to speak as well as dance. Paul Porter succeeds in both aspects of the role, playing with a passionate conviction. But he is only the first among equals, because the whole company perform with a gripping sense of drama.

Neruda's words are woven into the fabric of the work, not only in the role of the poet but even more by the presence of a Chilean actor, Leonardo Martinez, who sits at the side of the stage speaking extracts from the text. There are two singers besides the orchestra pit together with three musicians playing percussion, trombone and guitar, and a fourth who controls electronically all those live sound sources and a prepared tape.

the performance I attended something had gone wrong with the arrangements for processing the music through microphones and loudspeakers. After some anxious adaptation, the show proceeded with an apology that it could not sound quite as it should. Even so, I found the score impressive, and look forward to hearing it again in happier circumstances.

Götz Loepelmann's scenery and make, the costumes by Marie-Lies Cramer and Heinrich Reuter's lighting all have an important share in the ballet's success. Although the proportion of realism and fantasy varies, as already indicated, during the course of the work, there is throughout an imaginative use of objects to suggest rather than imitate. Tables, for instance, become the decks of ships, and planks are used as shields and as offensive weapons. One interesting aspect of *Canto General* is that it uses dance to convey its theme, never decoratively. Thinking back to it, I cannot remember a single dance which could be taken out of context and presented on its own. In Cologne *Canto General* is performed not in the Opera House itself but in the adjoining Playhouse, an auditorium which, on the whole, is probably more apt for most of Tanz-Forum's varied and progressive repertoire. Do (good news since) you do not have to go abroad to see it for yourself. Tanz-Forum is coming to Sadler's Wells for a fortnight in April, and *Canto General* is one of the weeks to shorter brought, together with shorter ballets by Reinhold Hoffman, Jürg Burch, Reinhold Hoffman, Hans van Manen and Jochen Ulrich, all but one of them new to London.

## A challenge for Elizabeth Taylor

Elizabeth Taylor is 49 at the end of this month. And she has rather more films than years to her credit. The figure generally quoted is 50, but when she was in London recently she quickly corrected that total and raised it to 58. She got an early start. She was only 10 when she shared the billing in *Lassie Come Home* with Roddy McDowall and the dog in question. A couple of years later she fought off considerable competition for a ride on *The Fire in the Sky*, the first film version of *Red Dog*, *Red Dog* the National Velvet.

Miss Taylor liked both those films. "Did you know that *Lassie* was a he and not a she?" No, I did not. The question did not cross my mind when I was moved to childhood tears on first seeing the picture. "Well, *Lassie* was a he. And, on reflection, I reckon some of my best leading men have been dogs and horses."

Among those challenging Elizabeth Taylor for the lead in *National Velvet* was one Shirley Carlin, later Shirley Williams. Perhaps defeat on that occasion steered Miss Taylor for reverses which were to come when she moved her career in a different direction. Certainly it did not deter her from acting, and she played opposite Peter Parker in *King Lear* when she was at Oxford.

More recently Elizabeth Taylor took a step herself towards the Williams political territory when she married her husband number six (excluding Richard Burton for the second time round), John Warren, a like, silver-haired Republican senator, with impeccable Virginia manners. The marriage came at a time when her film career was somewhat becalmed: Hal Prince's movie version with her of *A Little Night Music* met with limited critical approval and did very poor box office business. George Cukor's *The Blue Bird* attracted acres of publicity but never took to the wing. For the last five years Miss Taylor has spent much of her time campaigning for her husband.

"I feel as though I'm a true Virginian now. I own a British passport, but I think I'm going to take out an American one so that I can vote for John. I even rode up riding again—that was a mistake. "Two weeks before we were married I went out hunting, which was not exactly wise because I've had two inches of my spine removed and hadn't jumped since I was 24. Early on the horse pecked and it seemed to take two and a half hours before the ground reached up and hit me. As the blood came out of my nose I heard the voice of my riding instructor when I was seven years old, saying 'If you fall off, you must always remount.' Miss Taylor, who had Victor Caszlar for a godfather, was well schooled in matters equestrian long before MGM put her in the saddle.

"So I got back on. A little later the horse shied again and this time when I was thrown there was no moving, just silent tears of pain. Eventually a couple of hill-topers came by in a pick-up truck and I yelled out 'Don't move on, but move me instead. And gently, please.' They took me home, just another woman who had fallen off a horse, but fortunately the mother of one of them turned out to be a fan... but no more sleepchasing. The film which has enticed



Year: Elizabeth Taylor plays *Marina* in *Marina*, a movie that reads whose arrival with a film crew uncovers a series of murders which Miss Marple (Angela Lansbury) solves without moving 100 feet from her front room. What was the attraction for Elizabeth Taylor?

"Any number of things. I liked the challenge of Marina, a consummate actress and a bad actress at the same time, a liar and a charmer. The shooting schedule of six weeks was just right and I was delighted to have the chance to go back to Kent, a part of England I knew very well. I was a child, it is so like Virginia, you know. Kent could almost be an adjoining state."

"It also happens that I adore detective stories. Richard [Burton] and I used to read them in bed. We had a copy each and when we got to page 50 or thereabouts we both wrote down the name of the murderer. I'm glad to say that I invariably beat him, which drove him mad. I remember reading *The Mirror Crack'd* when it first came out in 1962. OK, so perhaps I agree with you that it wasn't one of the best Agatha Christies, but it has possibilities. "Maybe the film is better than the book. Certainly it has more scope. One or two of the jokes are strictly for those in the profession: Kim Novak makes fun of my big feet and Rock Hudson—this is the first time I've worked with Rock since *Giant*—has a couple of Doris Day lines."

Cognoscenti may also be intrigued by the opening sequence which shows the kind of film that used to be made from Christie novels 30 years ago breaking down on the village hall projector. It will not escape them that Dame Agatha dedicated *The Mirror Crack'd* from Side to Side; to use the full Christie title—taken from Tennyson—to "Margaret Ruthven-Tennyson, in admiration."

Elizabeth Taylor now goes into rehearsal for Lillian Hellman's *The Little Foxes*, on stage rather than on screen, which is scheduled for Broadway in April after an East Coast tour starting in a few days' time. "We read two plays, *Foxes* and *Hay Fever*. We reckoned that an American actress could not get the accents right for *Hay Fever*, so *The Little Foxes* is, and I'm happy because Regina is a great part. No, I haven't run the movie any more than I saw *Virginia Woolf* in the theatre before we filmed—I'm a natural mimic and there is too much danger of picking up other people's tricks. Believe it or not this is my first appearance on stage. When I talked over *Foxes* with John he said: 'If you're going to plunge, plunge.' I'm plunging."

John Higgins

## Philharmonia/Haitink Festival Hall/Radio 3

Barry Millington

Seasoned Mahlerian that he is, Bernard Haitink knows well that the incomprehensible, the jarring juxtapositions, which pepper a Mahler score are on no account to be apologized for. They are there, and they are to be taken as they are. The Haitink Mahler is a performance of real quality. Such an interpretation was given of Mahler's third symphony on Monday by the Philharmonia under Haitink.

In the half-hour first movement, nature is depicted wild and raw, sometimes sweet but often harsh and uncompromising; nature, that is, as personified by Pan. The banal jostles with the profound, the vulgar with the portentous, and Haitink scores on the subtleties in full measure. But at the same time, without sacrificing their individuality, he drew them together; it is his sureness in transforming an assemblage of disparate elements into coherent music that makes Haitink one of the finest Mahler conductors of our time. Having laid such solid foundations with that opening

movement, he was well on the way to giving a classic interpretation, and we were not disappointed. The five subsequent movements, dealing in their different ways with the human and divine, he welded together into a structure that balanced, and rightly so, the glacial movement that on its own formed part one. Pan and anarchy make a brief reappearance at the end of the third movement but ultimately they are no match for the healing, redemptive force that comes in the fourth and fifth movements.

These movements are stitched together, again not seamlessly: the heartstopping melody that opens the final Adagio came in Haitink's hands, and effectively so, as a new inspiration after the angelic celebrations of the fifth movement. The ladies of the Philharmonia Chorus, and the Southland Boys Chorus, as reliable as ever, gave voice to the celestial beings, while Alfredo Hodgson contributed a rich, measured contralto solo. A few over-exuberant phrases apart, the Philharmonia played the Mahler with the sureness that partnership has more Mahler performances of this calibre in store for us.

## Camerata Bern Queen Elizabeth Hall

Stephen Pettitt

Incoherent programmes frequently fall flat through an inability or unwillingness of either players or audience (or both) to cope with contrasting styles in one concert. That offered on Monday by the Camerata Bern, a small ensemble of 14 string players, was a golden exception to the rule.

This group, led by Thomas Furi, has made a reputation in this country largely through its association with Heinz Holliger. In recordings of eighteenth century music, in particular that of Zelenka and more recently the Mannheim composers. Consequently, it was all the more of a surprise to hear them play with such finesse in Elgar's early *Serenade* for Strings, a thoughtful gesture to their hosts. Their small size lent fresh clarity, yet in no way was the work's

rightful romanticism denied. It. Particularly impressive was the Larghetto, where unanimity was preserved even in its finely judged rubato and poised somnolence. The glacial personal chestnut, the *Hörsers Suite*, was performed with equal aplomb, made to sound as fresh as a spring daisy, though not lacking full-sized bloom when it was needed.

Returning to a more familiar patch, an attractive and neatly-played Concerto in G attributed to at least two others as well as Pergolesi bode well for the following Flute Concerto in E minor, most definitely by the Mannheim composer. Franz Xaver Richter, Arnold Nicolet, looking quite demented, gave a penetratingly intense edge to the limpid central Andantino, adventurously in C major, while the hybrid half-movement, half-classical outer movements were full of brilliant colours. His partners, ever sensitive, were neither too romantic nor insipid, as can often happen with modern-style players in such music.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions

## Book review

Ideas and the Novel

By Mary McCarthy

(Weidenfeld & Nicolson 14.95) The chapters that make up this book were given as the Northcliffe Lectures at London University last year. In them Mary McCarthy first examines the effect of Henry James on the "serious" novel, before going back in history, alighting principally on the nineteenth century, to see what fiction

itself "lost" as a result of James's achievement. On the modern novelist who also sets out to be an artist James has, Miss McCarthy insists, been a near-fatal influence; the treatment of ideas, philosophical, social, which was central to the very concept of the novel at its apogee in Europe, has been virtually proscribed (only the New York Jewish school and a few archaic individuals are allowed to have flouted the ban). It can't honestly be pre-

tended that Miss McCarthy pursues this dubious thesis with the greatest of intellectual rigour and for once, perhaps, one can agree with the terms of a publisher's blurb. A swift excursion over the whole terrain of fiction "conducted" in 100 odd pages of loosely packed print would promise trouble ahead, even if we were in the presence of a species of thought of unusual concentration. And frankly we are not, in *Ideas and the Novel*.

Certainly the book sprouts ideas in abundance; and some of them are good ones. Generally Mary McCarthy's thesis, as far as it exists, hangs together, but what she has to say about the French novel, she is good on Balzac and Hugo. But the colloquial witticisms begin to seem threadbare, particularly when she turns to the novel in English. To commend George Eliot's "tolerance" while deriding her intellect seems to beg a host of ques-

tions; and to compare the operation of that intellect in the novel directly with Dosztoevsky's is unsound. The mention of Melville and Marryat in the same breath as "serious" novelists whatever the point is meant to serve, is unhelpful in understanding either. And it will just not do—smart though its sounds—to talk of Jane Austen being "to the novel as Wordsworth's *Lyrical Ballads* were to *The Prelude*."

Essentially, though, the book

rests on a charge against James which is flimsily brought. There may be such a charge to make, but Miss McCarthy's conduct of the case for the prosecution leaves no many questions unanswered. Whichever the limitant James appeared to impose on successors, his acute awareness of the creative predicament itself warrants more precise examination of his motives.

Peter Davies



The Daumier exhibition restores Bernard Levin's faith in the Royal Academy.



Daumier exhibits at the Royal Academy: a cast bronze, *Ratapoli*, and two lithographs, *L'eau de puits de Grenelle*, and *J'euls d'Garde à la merrie* (sic).

# On the right side, and witty with it

On the whole, I regard Dr Armand Hammer as a Bad Thing; he was a lot too thick with Lenin, and has been in something of an ongoing cabaret situation with the celebrated Bolshevik's heirs, and assigns ever since. What is more, I am by no means sure that he has used a long enough spoon when supping with the bastards, or indeed much wished to. It is not, however, in his capacity of *homo dubius* that I salute him this morning, but in that of art-collector, and one of the shrewdest and most understanding of modern times.

He has been collecting pictures (and giving them away) for more than half a century, and his most recent butterfly, 5,000 specimens of which he netted at one go in 1976, is Daumier. Of his vast collection, some 240 items are to be seen at the Royal Academy until next month: I went to see them partly because I have always been fascinated by Daumier and have never seen a lot of his work together, and partly because ever since I saw the Academy's own show, *A New Spirit in Painting*, I have been unable to take any solid food, my hair has started to fall out in a most distressing manner, and I have woken screaming in the middle of the night at least three times a week; the neighbours have now started to complain, so I thought that by going to see something good at the Academy

I might be restored to full health. It is too early to be sure that the trick has been successful, but at any rate the green wickerwork men have stopped riding their bicycles round the brim of my hat, so perhaps everything is going to be all right.

The most important thing about Daumier is that he was on the right side, and moreover in the right way. I shall discuss what I mean by that in a moment, but in any case the most important aspect of his work is not the first to be noticed by a visitor to the exhibition: what leaps off the walls is the astounding quality of his draughtsmanship, and the reason it is astounding is that the line is not in the least fine, indeed it is positively impressionistic at times, and a huge proportion of the lithographs (most of the items in the exhibition are lithographs, as most of his work was in that medium) could easily be crayon or charcoal drawings. Yet if you look at such examples of this technique as the delightful No 46, in which an unsuccessful artist is seen destroying his rejected work or the mordant No 19, a study of the great enemy, Louis-Philippe, the optical illusion is complete; you feel you can count every hair on their heads separately. Daumier must have had a hand of incredible steadiness, and a confidence no less exceptional to guide it, so meticulous is the result,

so unmerciful in the technique.

The next thing to be noticed is the range, which is the subject of another confounding-trick. He really only had two subjects; the baseness of those who ruled France, with a few very brief intervals, throughout his adult life, and the absurdity, endearing and quaint or greedy and cowardly, of the bourgeoisie. He was fascinated by lawyers and obsessed by Don Quixote, but the rulers and the ruled formed the staple of his diet. You would think that that would inevitably mean monotony in so large an exhibition, but you would be wrong, because the variety of changes that Daumier rang upon these two themes was absolutely inexhaustible, and there is no question of the visitor being asked.

This remarkable quality can be seen at its best in the set of bronzes that fill a series of glass cases in the Reynolds Room, and if you want to see them, you had better hurry, because I propose to speak in one night very shortly and steal the lot; I do not think I have ever broken the Tenth Commandment with such comprehensive intensity in all my life. There are 36 of them; they are portraits of the members of Louis-Philippe's government, and the clay is moulded with genuine hate, so that the spectator passes along the row

assailed by cunning, meanness, folly, corruption, cowardice, stupidity, hypocrisy, cruelty and every other imaginable form of swinishness that human beings can be possessed of. Now 36 variations on such a theme would not normally be expected to hold the attention unwaveringly, yet I paced back and forth along the row again and again, seeing more and more in this amazing gallery of savage rebuke every time.

Well, Daumier was a genius. But that is only the general conclusion of the magic wrought here; the particular one is that although the busts are indeed caricatures, the subjects do not become simply the attributes Daumier has seen in them—they are never, that is, debased. It is at this point that the comparison which I made earlier between the variety of changes that Daumier rang upon these two themes was absolutely inexhaustible, and there is no question of the visitor being asked.

At the same time, to rescue Poland from its economic crisis Solidarity must restrain its members from making unreasonable demands about wages and hours of work. This in turn will be possible only if a far greater degree of confidence can be established between the authorities and Solidarity. But if these conditions can be satisfied there are those, even among the pessimists, who believe Poland might succeed in maintaining within a Socialist economy and within the Soviet sphere of influence free unions which could act as a check on the authorities.

Such an outcome depends on the Soviet Union taking the risk that neither Russia nor the other Eastern European countries would be unduly contaminated by the Polish example. But the situation is unprecedented, and the consequences for the Soviet Union

ment even more easily seen in his studies of domesticity.

Or rather, that is his second greatest achievement. The most important of all is that he was on the right side for the right reasons. His directly political work has the zest and gaiety possessed by all the greatest satires of the windmills of oppression; if only he had been alive during the Dreyfus case! For far too long now, the opponents of authority have wanted only to replace it by their own version, often a good deal worse (see any statement by any representative of the Marxist Left). More subtly, they are characterized by a mean and whining spirit and a lack of any kind of sense of humour; as well as the passion of Voltaire or Shaw, Hume or Ben Jonson. The effect is extraordinarily heartening, and not only restores a wavering belief in the willingness of brave men and women to resist tyranny, but reinforces the most important truth of all: that in the end, tyranny must fall.

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## Labour and the leadership red herring

Paul Routledge *The Times* Labour Editor, was totally wrong in his appraisal (Jan 28) of Mr Frank Chapple's speech at the Labour Party special conference at Wembley. The reasons are deeply rooted in the history of the Labour Party.

A significant part in determining who should be the leader of the Labour Party is not something which should be grudgingly conceded to the trade unions because it was the unions which created and sustained the party.

The Labour Party was the natural outcome of the enfranchisement of the working class, the growing strength of the trades union movement and the class biased state apparatus of Parliament and the judiciary.

Mr Routledge's article made the assumption that the trade unions have "muscle in" and taken over the party. On the contrary, the party was formed following a decision of the Trade Union Congress whose interest in creating a political party representing Labour had been stimulated by a series of judicial decisions which effectively destroyed union industrial, bargaining power.

The party was created to represent those who had nothing to sell but their labour and who were being preyed upon by the courts from exercising their market power. Workers simply emulated the rich and powerful who effectively controlled and directed the Tory Party.

Historically, it is impossible to contemplate a Labour Party detached from the organized Labour movement. The Labour Party is a federal body and it is this structure which gives it strength.

The gang of three, whom Mr Chapple supports, like to ignore this fact. For them a united and effective Labour movement is permanently upset; the balance between capital and labour. For them flailing with capitalism suffices.

To the question, "whose finger on the political trigger?" the answer must be: those members of the labour movement who are either individual or affiliated members of the Labour Party. It is a red herring, and Mr Chapple knows it, to link communists, fascists and Conservatives as "outsiders" who will influence the election of the Labour Party leader.

Communists are almost invariably political levy payers. They are not allowed to be individual members of the party, but work alongside Labour Party members in building and strengthening organization both industrial and politically to shift the balance of power and wealth towards working people.

Conservatives within the trade union movement do no share this common objective. It is not surprising, therefore, that communists are more heavily represented than Conservatives in organizations that oppose employers. Conservatives, on the other hand, face the contradiction of being the adversary and ally of their employer at both the industrial and political level.

Trade union organization provides the only possible financial support for the Labour Party. But more important it brings the Labour Party the strength of a movement which represents twelve million workers. The policy for mobilization process of the party is that the TUC controls votes vitally to debate within the Labour Party.

At conference, union block votes are not wielded at the whim of union leaders but in accordance with the agreed policies of the movement. These policies all union members can help formulate. The union block votes do not constitute an undivided voting strength. The political differences which exist between unions ensure that no single paper can call a united tune.

The press rarely draws attention to the influence held within the Tory Party by big business.

This contrasts with the political power bought by capitalists whose finances boost Tory funds. Policy formulation within the Tory Party involves just a few influential employees and business people feeding in their ideas. There is no widespread discussion. But the press rarely draws attention to the influence held within the Tory Party by big business.

Compare, for instance, the incentive Tory cuts in higher income tax rates with Labour's suggestion of cutting income policies and consider which party is more influenced by its paymasters.

Those like Mr Chapple's gain who favour the "one person one vote" system of electing Labour's leaders fail to recognize this fundamental class division between the parties. For years they have sought to obscure it by policies which amount to little more than capitalism with a human face. The decision at Labour's special conference has reversed this process and has re-created its class base of the party.

Mr William Rodgers said recently that changes in the special conference decision would not resolve the problem of the gang of three. This underlines the point that argument over the electoral college is a question of policy, not simply percentages.

Now that the constitutional issues have been decided, the Labour Party needs to concentrate on developing policies which will provide a positive alternative to the most reactionary Conservative Government this country has ever seen. The Labour Party must address itself to those problems which threaten the future of Britain as an industrial nation—mass unemployment, plummeting manufacturing capacity and low industrial investment.

Ken Gil

The author is General Secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

## How long can Poles walk the tightrope?

Mark Bonham Carter on the pitfalls facing Solidarity

In Poland jokes have long been an accurate guide to the political temperature. A current joke runs as follows: If our Russian comrades in association with our allies come to help us, who would a patriotic Pole shoot first, and why? The answer is, first a German from duty, second a Russian for pleasure.

On arrival in Poland the possibility of Russian intervention seems more remote than from outside.

Few of the people I met raised the issue. This is partly because the threat of intervention has been made so frequently by the authorities and more credibly by the outside media that people are inoculated against it: partly because the Poles adopt, not least for historical reasons, a fatalistic attitude to the possible behaviour of their neighbours.

In the past German and Russian policy towards Poland has been so clearly inspired by motives that have had little to do with Polish behaviour—though a great deal to do with their geographical position—that Poles feel their own actions have little influence on events. As one of them said, American-Russian relations may well be more important in deciding the fate of Poland than anything that happens within the Polish People's Republic. Hence President Reagan's belligerent and simplistic statements about the policy of

the Soviet Union send a shiver down many Polish spines. Nevertheless, although intervention does not feature prominently in the political discussions which are today taking place at all hours throughout Poland, and which are being conducted with unprecedented freedom, it is always in the background. A leading member of Solidarity said: "Everyone knows that if we wished to, we could turn out the Government tomorrow, but of course we won't. And they won't because of the protection it would be to the Soviet Union."

But if the Politbureau and the Government appear vulnerable, Solidarity is not a highly disciplined or easily controlled movement. To deprive it of leadership of eight million which has been collected in just under six months presents problems. Solidarity is a protest against the discontents which have accumulated over 35 years of Socialist government. It is underpinned by the authority of the Church which has steadily grown, helped by the Pope's visit.

The most obvious fact about Solidarity is that it is led by the past generation. The expectations and aspirations are very different from those of their parents. Being without personal experience of terror, they have inherited, as I was constantly reminded, the romantic Polish tradition of "heroism".

The leadership of Solidarity,

all in their twenties and thirties with their open necked shirts and sporting their Solidarity badges, look the living embodiment of the Marxist worker-hero. But they are not all that they seem. Behind them and advising them but not inspiring them are the members of the intelligentsia and the Church. In Poland the alliance between workers and intellectuals, so yearned for on the Left in the West, has occurred in opposition to incompetent and apparently corrupt totalitarianism, or even the dilemma facing Solidarity is no less acute than the Government's. It dare not overthrow the Government not only from fear of precipitating Soviet intervention, but also because no one supposes Solidarity capable of even the desirous of governing the country. And overshadowing the drama of politics in Poland today hangs a catastrophic economic position, the inheritance of mismanagement by successive administrations and more immediately from the massive over-investment in the 1970s, aggravated by continuous disruption through strikes since last August.

Solidarity is a vast popular movement which has been flung together at breakneck speed. It is at present dealing with a series of crises precipitated by its own existence and at the same time trying to sort out the process of conducting elections at branch level. These will be fol-

lowed by regional elections and will culminate in the election of a national executive some time in March.

They will be the first free elections to have been held in Eastern Europe since 1947 and they will, if allowed to be completed, confer on Solidarity a legitimacy which the party Congress will find it hard to match.

Several conversations I had with men of experience, patriotism and good faith made me ask myself whether there was any way forward which would not lead to one of those tragedies with which Polish history is littered. In a situation where the future is difficult to discern, there may be some glimmers of hope. First the Russian position.

There is a story prevalent in Poland allegedly told by an old Polish general who had served in the Russian army during the last war. He had held high command in Poland and shortly before the German invasion he had been summoned from the front to see Stalin. He obeyed, fearing that his fate was sealed. When he met Stalin he was complimented on his military successes and then asked what policy the Soviet should pursue in Poland. Trying to give an answer that would not be used against him, he proposed a substantial Soviet occupation, combined with heavy indoctrination of the young together with the imposition of a communist regime in all its rigour.

To this Stalin had responded by saying: "Though you may be a very good general, you are a very stupid politician. I do not much care if Poland is a socialist, Catholic or democratic state or even a kingdom so long as a pro-Russian party is in control. Poland's importance must be not ideological, it is strategic and geographical."

If the Soviet Government can be convinced of Polish loyalty to the Warsaw Pact, the major change that has taken place in Polish life as a result of the emergence of Solidarity might be accommodated.

At the same time, to rescue Poland from its economic crisis Solidarity must restrain its members from making unreasonable demands about wages and hours of work. This in turn will be possible only if a far greater degree of confidence can be established between the authorities and Solidarity. But if these conditions can be satisfied there are those, even among the pessimists, who believe Poland might succeed in maintaining within a Socialist economy and within the Soviet sphere of influence free unions which could act as a check on the authorities.

Such an outcome depends on the Soviet Union taking the risk that neither Russia nor the other Eastern European countries would be unduly contaminated by the Polish example. But the situation is unprecedented, and the consequences for the Soviet Union



Workers in Solidarity's headquarters in Warsaw.

of intervention would be horrendous. The achievement of a settlement depends largely on Polish prudence. It also demands enlightened self-interest on the part of the Soviet Union and the West.

The position of the Polish state derives from agreements reached between the West and the Soviet Union. If Poland fell off the board, the settlement then reached would be in ruins and the immediate consequences would be demands for the reunification of Germany which the Federal Democratic Republic would find it impossible overtly to resist. No one else in the Western world would wish to see that issue revived and to this extent, East and West have

certain shared interests, despite profound differences in many other areas. No one is asking the United States or members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to change their position on Afghanistan. But it does not follow from this that the rhetoric in which President Reagan has been indulging will do much for Afghanistan, and it may make the Polish position even harder to resolve. It is to our advantage that the gains made in Eastern Europe in the years of détente, and those recently won in Poland, should be preserved.

We have towards Poland that demands a modicum of self-restraint not least in the light of self-interest. So does the Soviet Union.

Ken Gil

The author is General Secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

## LONDON DIARY

### Making the small time at No 10

Any suggestions that the Prime Minister and her principal lieutenants may be about to turn soft on their rigidly monetarist economic crusade should be instantly dispelled by an announcement from Downing Street yesterday about Mrs Thatcher's next party.

Managers and employees from 36 of Britain's most successful small and medium companies have been invited to take a tincture at Margaret's place next Monday evening. The inclusion of employees this time is important: Mrs Thatcher held a similar do last March for her favourite small businessmen, but omitted to ask along any of their workers.

The Prime Minister's office was circulating the list of acceptances yesterday, along with an explanatory note: "They all have in common a spirit of enterprise and make a valuable contribution to Britain's prosperity. Also attending the reception will be a number of ministers including Industry

Secretary Sir Keith Joseph, and others interested in promoting the success of enterprise."

Thumbnail sketches of the guests are appended. There is Mr Green the financier: "He is not a sleeping partner but works within the company to help it attain its objectives." And Mr Beaver the banker: "Beaver is a banker by profession and has brought an imaginative and sympathetic approach to small company finance." And Mr Winkles the other banker: "An imaginative financier with a good entrepreneurial spirit."

Then there is Mr Griffiths the engineer, who found himself with spare space in his factory and gave it over to "entrepreneurial activities therein."

Perhaps this galaxy of entrepreneurial talent could put their heads together and come up with an enterprising way of employing all those miners who are forced to watch their jobs disappear in the name of rationalization.

Hard cash

I learn from the National Westminster Bank that they will open today their first

service till in a factory. A service till, for anyone who still clings to the older, simpler and cheaper system of banking under the mattress, is a slot machine which coughs up money in return for a taste of the correct plastic card; a minor condition is that you actually have some in a Natwest account.

According to Natwest the installation of the machine at the Alcan Plate factory in Birmingham is part of their drive to attract what they call the "unbanked", a term I find depressingly reminiscent of the Orwellian world which is only three years away. It equates those without bank accounts with the uncouth, the unwashed, the uneducated, and the undesirable.

But I find it surprising that they should put a cash machine in a factory at all. The way things are going in the West Midlands these days, with the latest figures showing a quite appalling rise in unemployment of 32 per cent in the last year, by far the highest anywhere in the country, the unbanked are also the unemployed. Perhaps a more appropriate site for Natwest's next machine would be the nearest jobcentre.

Nicolian said yesterday that

How well do Customs officers search vehicles? I hear that a parcel of new out-of-print music by the French composer Durufle has been shuttling between Britain and the Continent for six months, lost in the bowels of a coach which was searched several times at British ports. The choir which bought the £200 score in Paris had to rearrange its programme because the music was lost. It was eventually found in the luggage compartment by the driver, while giving his bus a sprucing clean.

Gang away?

Manouk Nicolian is a wealthy Armenian-born textile merchant who feels that the emergent Council for Social Democracy would do a lot better if it had a more upmarket address. After all, the doctor most associated with Limehouse before David Owen was Fu Manchu. Nicolian has therefore written to Owen and Roy Jenkins offering them the use of his sumptuous new £150,000 mansion at Kintbury, Berkshire, as a party headquarters.

It must be a real dilemma for Ted Heath...

an ideal retreat where the Labour breakaway movement can plan and organize in peace and quiet the formation of a Party of the centre", he said. So far, none of the Gang-Of-However-Many-It-Now-Is has taken up the offer. In spite of the carrot of financial help to the infant movement from Nicolian, who says he votes Tory but dislikes the leftward movement of Labour.

The Kintbury mansion does have its drawbacks. It is 80 miles from London; Berkshire is perhaps just a little too posh; and it is sited in the grounds of a health farm whose clients include a number of overweight Conservative MPs.

Living high

Those much abused tower blocks of council flats, which proliferated in the 1960s and early 1970s, may after all have a future, one of which I am sure the present Government would heartily approve. While several local authorities are preparing to demolish them, and in one or two cases, have already done so, others are taking the more imaginative course of "living them off" to private enterprise.

Hard on the heel of the news that Liverpool City Council has exchanged contracts for the sale of the vandalized and unhabitable "piggeries", I am now informed of an even more advanced scheme in Edinburgh. Somewhat to the surprise of the Department of the Environment which disclaims responsibility for anything that happens north of the border, the previously defunct 23-storey Marleto Court, a Muirhouse, has been refurbished for sale.

The whole process has taken barely a year, and the two-bedroom flats are being snapped up at around £10,000 each. The young man responsible, John Mackay, describes the development as both socially acceptable and socially conscious, so it may be slightly churlish to remark that residents will be protected from socially unacceptable elements by a 15ft high perimeter wall.

Here's some

Here is a useful hint on etiquette, passed down to me from a highly placed source, should you ever be asked to dine with

a Very Highly Placed Person. My man was dining at Esplanade as part of the entourage of the then Prime Minister (now retired to the back benches). Another member of the Downing Street party, clearly unused to eating at such a high level, was a bit of a smoker. He fidgeted and bit his fingernails throughout the meal until he could contain himself no longer.

"Do I have to wait for the loyal toast until I can smoke?" he whispered to the Queen's private secretary.

Just remember where you are: the secretary breathes back. "She isn't going to toast herself, is she? You can smoke whenever you like."

I have had a desperate appeal from the parents of an 11-month-old boy in Whiteparish, Wiltshire, who was born on February 29 last year. They hope one of my readers can tell them, on the basis of either irrefutable logic or his toric precedent, whether to celebrate the lad's first birthday on February 28 or March 1.

Alan Hamilton

هكذا من الأصل





New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## JOB PROTECTION IN THE PITS

The Government are right to forestall the momentum of events in the coal industry and seek an immediate meeting with miners' leaders and National Coal Board officials. The unofficial strike begun yesterday in South Wales threatens to create an atmosphere of crisis which will make it more difficult for the negotiators on either side to find the compromise which can and should resolve this dispute. On the union side, approaching internal elections add pressures of their own. Memories of 1974, and the political hopes and fears attached to them, are adding an artificial drama to an issue where no fundamental differences of policy divide the opponents.

The miners have always accepted that old pits have to close. Joint machinery exists to discuss how and when to close them, and the lives of 40 pits have been ended in the last seven years, with no serious conflict except in one or two cases. But no agreed criteria exist for assessing when a mine is no longer viable, and the recession has put a double strain on the system. For the management, constrained by cash limits, the sharp fall in demand for coal has made it more difficult to afford the cost of loss-making pits. For the miners, unemployment has increased resistance to the disappearance of any more jobs.

It is common ground that no simple calculation of profit or loss is adequate to determine the fate of a pit. The NCB has many pits where coal has been mined at a loss for years. Apart from the need to provide some stability of employment in communities dependent on the local pit, coal is a natural resource whose stocks are ultimately limited (though plentiful at the

moment), and it is in a wider sense unthrifty to abandon for ever seams that can be exploited at only a moderate loss.

Both sides have the long-term interests of the industry at heart. The miners' leaders are fond of rhetoric about their having no right to disinherit future generations of miners. In that perspective, the marginal pits must be of less importance than the big investment programmes in new coalfields. There is a strong case on grounds of national self-sufficiency in energy for securing the future of a healthy indigenous coal industry, and great progress has been made towards that recently, especially in production per man. But even so, more money in recent years has gone into refurbishing old pits than into the provision of new capacity. It would be self-defeating for the union to seek to tilt the balance still further that way.

The NCB's investment programme will always involve choices of this kind, and the recession would have made them increasingly painful under the Government. But the financial objectives were imposed in the Coal Industry Act last year has limited the NCB's range of action much more sharply. The industry is to be required to pay its way without operating subsidies by 1983-84. Self-sufficiency is an excellent aim in principle, but since the Act was framed, the recession has made it an impossible one to achieve without a far more rigorous policy towards the loss-making sector than was envisaged. It is an aim to work towards, but not one that it is worth striving to achieve in three years' even if the cost is a national coal strike.

In 1974 both sides of the industry agreed on a national plan for coal which predicted a closure rate of three to four million tonnes capacity a year in the first decade—a target never actually sustained. Now the board is looking for closures of more like 10 million tonnes over the next year. A change of policy as sharp as that cannot be accomplished without preparation and negotiation. But the fundamental economic situation is one that cannot be negotiated away, and the union must see the danger of jeopardizing the long-term future of the industry for the sake of some short-life pits.

The miners' leaders claim to be contemptuous of offers of the "tools" of gold of transfer payments, redundancy payments, and the like. As in the steel industry, the workers themselves may think differently. Ample and effective provision for the social consequences of closure can be a good bargain for both sides—and certainly more rewarding for British industry than the ban on coal imports sought by Mr. Gormley, which would simply transfer the problems of uneconomic pits to the uneconomic steelworks which survive only by use of cheap imported coal.

Both sides in the talks will have to keep their shared interest in the future of their industry well in view, resisting short-term pressures. A national strike would be long and uncertain in its outcome despite the high stocks of coal above ground and the new rules on picketing. It would do serious damage to manufacturing industry in its present condition. It would also jeopardize the long-term development of the coal industry against the interests of the miners themselves.

## TALKING OF GERMAN UNITY

Herr Honecker, the East German party leader, must have done some serious thinking and consulting before suddenly raising the question of German unification in a speech to party workers on Sunday. He must also have consulted with the Russians. A subject of such reverberating significance is not brought lightly from the closet in which it has lain for so many years. But what his weighty reasons were can only be guessed at.

From the time of their creation until 1969 both German states formally held the view that reunification was their ultimate aim. For East Germany it would come with the victory of socialism; for the West Germans it would come with free elections. East Germany blamed the division on western imperialism in league with German capital; West Germany blamed it on Soviet imperialism in league with German communists. Each saw a solution only in terms of the victory of its own system. Each subscribed, whether explicitly or not, to the questionable notion that Bismarck's success in welding together a number of German states for a relatively brief period represented in some way the natural logic of German history.

The situation became more complicated when West Germany started its opening to the east and eventually established formal relations with East Germany under the treaty of 1972. The West German formula was "one nation, two states", and the aim was to keep the nation together by negotiating human contacts in return for recognizing the sovereignty of East Germany. The East Germans, however, wanted full recognition as an independent state. They wanted to put a final dampener on restless hopes of reunification and settle the frontiers of Europe once and for all. They wanted to be regarded by West Germany as a foreign country.

This the West Germans could not grant because their constitution obliges them to strive for reunification (as did the constitution of East Germany until it was amended). In their treaty, therefore, the two states agreed to differ on "the national question". Bonn conducts its relations not through the Foreign Ministry but through the Chancellor's office, and continues

to recognize only one nationality, which means that East Germans are automatically entitled to West German passports and full rights in West Germany.

East Germany, until now, has continued to compensate for the opening up of personal contacts with a systematic campaign to establish itself as a fully legitimate and permanent German state, heir to the revolutionary traditions of German history and custodian of the "progressive" elements in German culture. All talk of reunification ceased in the 1970s except for a brief reference by Herr Honecker in 1978. West Germany's references to the continuing existence of a German nation were dismissed as "nationalist demagoguery". It was explained that nations were the product of class struggle and that a shared history was irrelevant to the increasingly sharp distinction between the two German nations, one socialist, one bourgeois.

Herr Honecker's apparent modification of this line seems to open a new phase. Obviously he is on sound ideological ground. When communism eventually triumphs, as doctrine says it must, the class struggle will end, the nation state will wither away, and German worker will embrace German worker across the Elbe. Addressing the party faithful, Herr Honecker may have felt obliged to remind them of this glittering prospect in order to raise their morale and give them some words of hope to repeat at party meetings. East Germans are probably feeling a little lonely now. Their contacts with West Germany have been sharply reduced by the new regulations on compulsory exchange of currency, and seem further threatened by the deterioration of east-west relations as a whole. Their contacts with Poland have been reduced by the troubles there. Their wall is closing in again.

But perhaps the party leaders are also coming to admit to themselves that their attempts to confer historical legitimacy on their state have had only limited success. Even the recent exhibition of Prussian history and the erection of the statue of Frederick the Great in East Berlin have not wholly persuaded the people of East Germany that theirs is the more truly German Germany and that their future can be divorced from that of the artificial

American creation across the wall. Indeed, the national question is, by all accounts, discussed far more frequently and with more genuine concern in East Germany than in West Germany. Every reference to German history enlivens it still more. Herr Honecker may feel, therefore, that if he cannot beat the trend he had better try to steer it in ideologically safe directions.

He could have other motives too. He is certainly aware that in West Germany there has been a sudden surge of interest in German history, coupled with a lively debate about attitudes to East Germany. The debate has recently been fuelled by an interview given by Herr Gaus, the departing head of the West German mission to East Germany, who called upon his countrymen to re-think their attitude towards East Germany in the light of German history, and to abandon their oversimplified view of Bismarck's work. Others have chimed in to point out that the German nation, whatever it is, has never been contained within one state. This debate must be spilling over into East Germany and although it should be welcome as pushing West Germans towards greater acceptance of East Germany, any debate about German history is bound to be unsettling in a state not truly persuaded of its own legitimacy.

So the main audience for Herr Honecker's remarks was probably intended to be domestic. But he also made sure they reached West Germany. Perhaps he wanted to tell Herr Schmidt that he was still interested in doing business. Perhaps he wanted to make Polish flesh creep at the thought of German reunification, thereby pointing out the value of alliance with the Soviet Union. But nearer the top of his mind may have been a wish to encourage the left wing Social Democrats. Some of them talk a lot about a German road to socialism which might bring the two states together in a synthesis of all that is best from east and west. Since these are often the same people who oppose increased defence spending, resist the stationing of American missiles in Europe, and criticize the United States most openly, Herr Honecker and the Russians would see the cues which, as H.M. inspectors have revealed, are lowering standards.

We do object strongly to the present Government's diversion of public funds from the starved state sector into private schools, but it is no part of our policy to enforce a state monopoly of education.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN SEITH, Liberal Spokesman on Education, House of Commons.

## Women in Parliament

From Mr Michael Steel  
Sir, It is paradoxical that Mrs Barbara Castle (report, January 28) should deplore the low percentage of women in the House of Commons since she valiantly defends the primary cause—the British electoral system. The more candidates a party has to nominate at one go, the more likely it is to achieve a reasonable proportion of women: the figures that Mrs Castle quotes show the effect with startling clarity.

The United Kingdom, with a purely single-member system, is at the bottom of the league table with 3.2 per cent; here a single member system is used but each candidate is nominated with a named replacement, so for nominating purposes it is more like a two-member system. Women members of the Assemblée Nationale tend to come in as replacements. Then Ireland (2.1 per cent)—the Irish use a proportional system but in constituencies of only three or four members. Next Germany at 8 per cent; although their system is fully proportional, half

the seats are fought in single member constituencies and most women members of the Bundestag depend on the regional lists for election.

Finally come five countries, all with proportional representation in their regional constituencies: Three Catholic ones, which only gave women the vote after the Second World War, average 11.2 per cent. Top of Mrs Castle's table are two countries which extended the suffrage at the same time as Britain—Protestant Denmark (23.5 per cent) and mixed Netherlands (14.7 per cent).

Britain is culturally similar to these two countries. It should be a sobering thought for Mrs Castle that if Britain, like them, had adopted a fully proportional electoral system in 1918, there would now be over 100 women in the House of Commons.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL STEED,  
Department of Government,  
Faculty of Economic and Social  
Sciences,  
University of Manchester,  
Manchester.

## Liberals on education

From Mr Alan Beith, MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed (Liberal)  
Sir, Mrs Checkfield (February 14) writes that she is waiting for liberals to utter a liberal word on the subject of parental freedom to spend their own money on educating their children as they think fit.

As far as Liberals with a capital L are concerned, she has no need to wait. We have consistently defended this basic civil right, and no Liberal government would take it away. We are passionately concerned to achieve the highest standards in the state education system on which the vast majority of children depend, and we are appalled at the cuts which, as H.M. inspectors have revealed, are lowering standards.

We do object strongly to the present Government's diversion of public funds from the starved state sector into private schools, but it is no part of our policy to enforce a state monopoly of education.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN SEITH, Liberal Spokesman on Education, House of Commons.

## Nationality Bill anxieties

From the Archbishop of Liverpool  
Sir, In the last decade the National Union of Mineworkers used its industrial muscle to push wages to a level where coal ceased to be priced competitively. As a result we were sucking in exports from Europe and elsewhere.

Rather than acknowledge that it employed its hand it now wants to attack the consumer/payer in two more ways: first, by striking; and second, by having the Government subsidize the coal price.

Can the NUM seriously contend it is representing the best interests of its members? Come the day when industrial logic rather than political dogma dominates its arguments, it may not have an industry to discuss.

Yours faithfully,  
DEREK WORLOCK,  
Archbishop of Liverpool,  
Archbishop's House,  
87, Green Lane,  
Mossley Hill, Liverpool.  
February 13.

From the Reverend R. Elliott Kendall  
Sir, Ronald Butt, in his intemperate attack on Archbishop Worlock (February 12) implies that it is no business of the Archbishop and his colleagues to comment on the clauses of a Bill.

This is a strange doctrine. Surely every citizen should be encouraged to take a lively interest in parliamentary affairs. Well informed and intelligent people may properly voice support or criticism for aspects of proposed legislation.

What sort of democracy does he want?  
Yours, Sir, wrote in an editorial (July 31) when the White Paper on the subject was published. "Such proposals need to be examined with great care to see that they are really necessary and that they would not perpetuate the kind of citizenship in a field in which a minor error in legislation becomes a major wrong into the individual".

Church leaders have very clearly been following your wise advice.

Yours truly,  
R. ELLIOTT KENDALL, Director,  
Community and Race Relations Unit,  
British Council of Churches,  
2 Eaton Gate, SW1.  
February 13.

## Remands in custody

From the Honorary Secretary of the Justice Society  
Sir, This society shares the fears of Lord Gardiner (February 13) about longer remands in custody. That is why, in our evidence to the Home Affairs Committee of the House of Commons on February 9, we urged that remands in custody in excess of a week should be ordered only where the accused is legally represented and consents to this course.

The problems of the 28-day remand in magistrates' courts, however, fade into insignificance when compared with those of the accused who have been remanded in custody at this stage of the criminal process.

There is no periodic review of the case by a court or anyone else. It was reported, for example, that when he broke out of Brixton Prison, Gerard Tuite had spent over a year in custody awaiting his trial at the Crown Court.

That is why, in our evidence to the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure, we suggested the abolition of committal proceedings and the replacement by an application to discharge procedure. One of the grounds for discharge would be that the prosecution had been unduly tardy in bringing their case.

We were glad to see that this proposal was accepted in essence by the Philips Commission.

Delay which is inimical to justice is unacceptable prevalent in some parts of the country and something must be done to control it.

Yours faithfully,  
GERARD SULLIVAN,  
Magistrates' Court,  
PO Box 10,  
Nelson Street, Bristol.

## Family matters

From Mrs Caroline Woodroffe  
Sir, I am beginning to believe that Dr Adrian Rogers (February 12) would prefer to see a girl under 16 suffer an abortion or childbirth rather than allow her doctor to prescribe contraception to protect her from pregnancy.

Over 2,000 girls under 16 had abortions and 1,300 girls under 16 gave birth. Maternal mortality among mothers under 16 is between three and four times higher than overall maternal mortality. The babies of these very young mothers are also at risk. For every 1,000 babies born alive to mothers under 16, 24 die before they are a year old.

Can moral outrage really be so cruel?  
Yours faithfully,  
CAROLINE WOODROFFE,  
Chairman, Brook Advisory Centres,  
133a East Street, SE17.  
February 12.

## Wrong pin-up

From Mr David Jamieson  
Sir, Fear that in their rush to construct The Times on its newly-assured future, Messrs Dorland Advertising Ltd. have allowed the wrong caption to accompany the "page 3 lovely".

Published yesterday (February 13), the Charles Smith of Etonism was sculpted in 1910 by Charles Sykes, modelled on Eleanor, secretary to Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, and cast for the first time in bronze on February 6, 1911, surely it becomes evident that Crew's 70-year-old Emily is, in fact, Beaulieu's 70-year-old Eleanor.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID JAMIESON,  
420 Rowood Drive,  
Solihull, West Midlands.

## Miners' strike: Some economic facts

From Mr Charles Wyatt  
Sir, In the last decade the National Union of Mineworkers used its industrial muscle to push wages to a level where coal ceased to be priced competitively. As a result we were sucking in exports from Europe and elsewhere.

Rather than acknowledge that it employed its hand it now wants to attack the consumer/payer in two more ways: first, by striking; and second, by having the Government subsidize the coal price.

Can the NUM seriously contend it is representing the best interests of its members? Come the day when industrial logic rather than political dogma dominates its arguments, it may not have an industry to discuss.

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES WYATT,  
26 Delving Road,  
Parsons Green, SW6.  
February 16.

From Mr Lewis Sergeant  
Sir, In the forthcoming power struggle between the coal miners and our democratically elected Government could we please clear our minds about the performance of the NCB since nationalization?

Although with increased mechanisation (and depreciation charges) the output per man has increased by about 50 per cent between 1947 and 1980, productivity (defined as output per man per pound at given levels of technology and extraction difficulty) has declined from an average of about 6.8 to 4.8 tonnes/man/pound at 1980 prices.

This decline would be greater still if depreciation charges were added to the denominator and would be directly comparable with the increase in cost of coal if the industry had not received substantial subsidies.

The whole raison d'être of the Thatcher Government is the link between productivity and prosperity. Yet most commentators still confuse productivity with output and ignore the financial aspects.

Yours truly,  
LEWIS SERGEANT,  
108 Horseferry Road, SW1.  
February 16.

From Mr A. L. Pottersman  
Sir, As we tumble along towards the post-industrial society, it's odd to see the puritan work ethic resuscitated by Mr McGahey, the Scottish miners' leader. As he so fiercely wields his promised blacksmith's hammer, the unwelcome delight of the Tories' anvil (sic)—who is to be battered and moulded into submission?

Presumably the miners themselves, without whom Mr McGahey's own job ceases to exist.

Yours faithfully,  
A. L. POTTERSMAN.

## Labour and the centre

From the Dean of Worcester College  
Sir, Those who are contemplating forming or joining a new centre party should reflect on the likely consequences of their actions. The new vote for the Labour Party at the last general election suggests that most of those who do not fancy the way that party has been going have already left. Mrs Williams and her friends are following, not leading, the voters.

A new party will draw the bulk of its support from the Conservatives. Given our "first past the post" electoral system a likely result of a centre vote will be that Labour will scrape home in a number of constituencies with a minority of the popular vote. Should such divisions between the centre and the right give a majority in the House of Commons to their opponents, it is unlikely that such a government would feel restrained from irrevocable legislation by the fact that it had only a minority of the popular vote.

Those who, rightly, fear such a left-wing Labour government should make sure that they do not contribute to its coming to power. It will be not good regretting it afterwards.

Yours sincerely,  
M. G. FITT,  
Worcester College, Oxford.  
February 16.

From Mr Raphael Levene  
Sir, Mr Popham's belated efforts to react in his party the authority of the leadership, and acknowledge that the constitutional channel for effecting political change must be through Parliament and not through picket-line, leave one voter of his own age group cynically unconvinced.

In our youth Mr Popham played his part in endeavouring to alert the country to the threat of totalitarianism, his afternoon sermons, published in the face of totalitarian aims hardly less dangerous, if more insidious, from another quarter, the mantle which he has unwittingly assumed is not that of a Conservative, but that of Neville Chamberlain.

The parallel is apposite in that it was a Tory member who found words for the doom-laden appeal for someone to "speak for England" that brought Chamberlain down; and if none of the standard-bearers

## Development aid

From Lord Jellicoe and Mr Michael H. Caine  
Sir, Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Australian Prime Minister, recently announced that the emphasis of this year's Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting will be on the problems of the Third World.

It is, therefore, paradoxical and a disappointing reflection on this country's sense of priorities that the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) should now be facing a funding crisis which seriously threatens to curtail the activities of what is certainly the Commonwealth's most established institution.

As your recent series of articles illustrated, CDC has justifiably earned an enviable reputation for successful basic development, particularly in agriculture. Above all, CDC is an established institution operating on the criterion of profitability—in sharp contrast to some development aid of the "hand-out" variety.

Yours faithfully,  
JELICOE, Chairman,  
Tate & Lyle Ltd.  
MICHAEL H. CAINE, Chairman,  
Booker McConnell Ltd.,  
London, EC4.

## Repairs at Palace of Westminster

From the Master of the Worshipful Company of Masons  
Sir, The Court of the Worshipful Company of Masons of the City of London have heard with considerable disquiet of the deterioration and need for extensive repair and reinstatement of the Palace of Westminster. They have studied the third and fourth reports from the Select Committee on House of Commons (Services). They have also noted the answers to the questions asked in the House of Commons on January 26 and are concerned at the limited nature of what is proposed.

The experts who have been consulted have advised on the need to proceed with cleaning and large-scale repairs to the fabric, but the present decision is that only studies which are in danger of falling in the proximity of the entrance doorways are to be attended to. We feel that the penalty of doing too little for too long is that so much has to be done in the end and at very greatly increased cost to the public purse.

The members of the court are fully aware of the financial difficulties at the present time. They recognize the obvious wish of the nation to give a lead to the nation in so far as public expenditure is concerned. These buildings are, however, among the most famous in the world and they are seen by millions of overseas visitors every year. They cannot look after themselves and the older they get the more care they need. Delay in treatment may prove hazardous in the extreme.

The proof of this is surely abundantly clear in that almost every cathedral has in recent years had to launch a major restoration appeal.

It is the considered opinion of the various professional and technical members of the court of the company that the experts' report should be implemented in full and that a long-term programme should be undertaken even in the present economic conditions; the requisite skills exist.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT NOTT, Master,  
The Worshipful Company of Masons,  
9 New Square,  
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.  
February 11.

From Sir Peter Vaneck, MEP for Cleveland (Conservative)  
Sir, It is a nice coincidence that both the article on the English world language professor says "and David Wood's feature, 'High cost of EEC's Tower of Babel', appear in Monday's Times together.

I believe, on the one hand, that every member of the European Parliament has a right to speak and be understood in his mother tongue, and on the other that the number of official languages for documents must be drastically reduced. The increasing complexity of simultaneous interpretation, and the expense, will have to be faced whenever another nation joins.

It must be remembered, for instance, that there are few Greek-speaking Danes and vice versa, so that English or French has to come in as an intermediary with inevitable time lags (laughter in the wrong place) and diminished accuracy. But it would be quite unethical to expect all MEPs to be multilingual in debate. The documentary translation scene is totally different, highlighted by the Greek alphabet itself.

In my view, the very vast extravagance in paper, printing and distribution, let alone translation, must be cut at once to the "big four" before Spain and Portugal join. If difficulty is then experienced, national delegations must make their own less expensive arrangements. The fact is that adding one more official language is not a simple addition for the workload and cost but a compound one.

Now that we are making some progress towards the economy of a single text for the Parliament, it is my intention to propose a resolution to reduce our official languages for documents to English, French, German and Italian. But when will any time be considered appropriate by the other nations? The debate will be a heated one.

Yours truly,  
PETER VANECK,  
1st Floor,  
City Gate House,  
Finsbury Square, EC2.  
February 16.

From Mr Norman Del Mar  
Sir, The last thing I ever thought to do was to set Mr Bernard Levin to work on anything, but he has gone astray on two counts in today's article (February 11).

Who, as applied to works by Beethoven, stands for "Werke ohne Opuszahl"—i.e. works without opus numbers—which are listed and so numbered in Kinsky, the Beethoven Köchel.

And, much though I dasthe Mr Levin's prejudiced hopes, a beautiful green-bound complete catalogue, fully indexed, of Max Regner's works stands on my shelves, prepared by Fritz Stein and published by Breitkopf and Härtel, clearly as an act of faith, since they published hardly any of the music itself.

Yours faithfully,  
NORMAN DEL MAR,  
Witchings,  
Hadley Common,  
Hertfordshire.

From Mr Robert Sopwith  
Sir, My beautiful St Valentine's Day stamp is almost obliterated on a letter received today, ferociously "Halspoken" (legged). Be properly addressed "Postcode it". Yours outchomastered,

ROBERT SOPWITH,  
Heathcote,  
Wellington College,  
Crowthorne,  
Berkshire.  
February 14.

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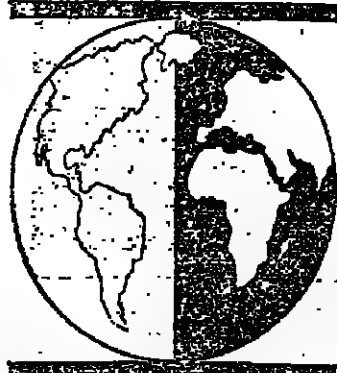












## Italian trade deficit quadruples to £7,615m

Italy's trade deficit nearly quadrupled from £1,930m in 1973 to £7,615m in 1979, according to provisional figures shown last week.

Imports were up by 32.2 per cent to £5,389,000m, while exports rose by only 11.4 per cent to £6,730,000m. The tendency, however, is for the increase in imports to slacken and for exports to maintain their strength.

For the first time the balance of trade, excluding oil, was in deficit, at £1,200,000m. Two sectors however were in surplus: textiles and clothing, which had a surplus of £728,000m and machinery and mechanical goods, which had a surplus of £672,000m.

### China talks

The International Oil Trading Company and the Japanese Petroleum Corporation are to send negotiators to Peking this week to discuss China's demand that its crude price be raised to \$38.25 (£17.0) a barrel to \$37.50 backdated to January 1.

### New Montedison talks

Signor Franco Forchi, Italian labour minister, led a further round of talks with representatives of Montedison and UNILCO, the chemical workers' union, in a renewed effort to dissolve the company from declaring 6,281 workers redundant at plants throughout Italy.

### Petrochemical complex

Iran has asked the Mitsui industrial group to resume the construction of a \$3,600m (about £1,555m) petrochemical complex at Bandar Khomeini on the Gulf as soon as possible. Construction has been halted because of the Iran/Iraq war.

### Swedish energy plan

The Swedish Government has proposed that state credit guarantees for energy development and the funds for energy research be increased to reduce oil dependence to 40 per cent by 1990, from 70 per cent at present.

### Arms strike continued

Workers at Fabrique Nationale de Herstal, in Belgium which supplies rifles and machine-guns to Nato armies, have rejected a compromise to end their week-long strike over job guarantees.

### India protest

India is to protest to the World Bank over its withdrawal of a \$250m (£110m) loan for a fertilizer plant complex in Maharashtra, after India charged one of the consultants for the complex last year.

### Steel dumping inquiry

The Canadian anti-dumping tribunal is to investigate a charge that the dumping in Canada of Spanish and Belgian hot-rolled carbon steel wire could be harming local producers.

### Loan request

Leading Japanese banks are seeking bigger quotas for participation in international syndicated loans because of increasing repayment of old syndicated loans before maturity.

### Argentine reserves

The Argentine central bank is to raise the minimum cash reserve requirement for Argentine banks to 12 per cent from 11 per cent, from March 1.

### Taiwan loan

Taiwan Power Corporation is to raise \$100m (£44m) over 10 years at a point-over-London interest rate, offered after the first five years, rising to 5 per cent thereafter.

### Thai gas plant

The Thai Government has approved a plan to build a natural gas processing plant and related gas distribution facilities worth about \$315m (£142m) in the northern province of Rayong.

### Canada retail sales

Canadian seasonally adjusted retail sales rose 0.2 per cent in December to \$7,440m (£3,296m), after a downward revised 3.12 per cent rise in November.

### Mining stake

The Arab Mining Company (Amico) has taken a 40 per cent stake in two new mining companies that will develop silver, lead and zinc deposits in Morocco.

### W/German oil imports

West Germany's oil imports in January fell to 7.16 million tonnes from 9.16 million a year ago, the Federal Office for Trade and Industry said.

### Ruppee revalued

The Indian rupee has been revalued against sterling by 0.8 per cent to a new middle rate of 86.50 to sterling from 87.50.

## Britain's largest industrial company out to reduce £1,000m bill ICI target of 5pc in energy saving

ICI, Britain's largest industrial company, has given itself a target of 5 per cent for energy savings in 1981. Last year it spent £1,000m on energy.

Officials are not yet able to estimate the likely energy bill for 1981, because it depends on energy saved, plant usage and, perhaps most important of all, rising prices for oil, gas, electricity and other raw materials like naphtha.

The magnitude of the company's task in ensuring it uses energy efficiently is illustrated by its Mond division with plants in Cheshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Cleveland.

Mond is the largest of the ICI divisions, traditionally representing between 15 and 20 per cent of the company's interests in assets, employees and sales, and employs about 15,000.

It produces alkalis, chlorine and its derivatives, fluorine-based chemicals, and extraction of lime and other products for use in steelmaking, agriculture and construction.

Mond claims to use 1 per cent of all the electricity generated in the United Kingdom and last year it spent £113m on energy. Because of increased consumer resistance during the recession, Mond has had to absorb much of these increased energy costs, reducing profits (not specified) by an estimated £15m.

Mr Donald Mackay, the division's finance director, explained that this year Mond expected to spend more than £160m for about the same amount of energy. He said that this would be "very difficult even to start to recover from customers".

Mond reduced its energy bill last year by about £3m—still short of the 5 per cent target set by Sir Maurice Hodgson, chairman of ICI. Mr Mackay is encouraged by the performance which, he says, was highly creditable because it was achieved on smaller and therefore less efficient levels of output.

He told the division's newspaper *Mond Mail*, that despite general exhortation and practical support, tight operating standards on plants could not be achieved by decisions taken at board level. "They can only come from hundreds of people on plants throughout the division understanding their processes better and trying to improve performance."

The Mond workforce is aware of the need to cut costs and improve productivity. Last year the division announced 1,000 redundancies which are being achieved through natural wastage and other voluntary means.

Mr Mackay believes that employees are more aware of the need to conserve energy. He quotes the example of boiler-men at the Cheshire works voluntarily

undergoing extra technical training to help them to increase the efficiency of the boilers. Mond spends about £60m simply raising steam.

"In these circumstances we have to be more efficient than our competitors in Continental western Europe because they have the advantage of paying much lower prices for energy, particularly electricity, than we pay in Britain," he said.

Along with other intensive energy users, not only in the chemicals industry, ICI wants the Government to end this cost disadvantage. It has suggested one way in which this might be done: by abolishing or reducing the present 58 a tonne duty on heavy fuel oil.

So far the Department of Energy—despite some pressure from elsewhere in Whitehall—has boded little on energy pricing, which it insists must be realistic and economic, reflecting the long-term, marginal cost of production.

Although the debate goes on—not least through the Task Force set up through the National Economic Development Office—chemical companies can expect little immediate relief.

Like ICI—which does, at least, benefit from a highly advantageous long-term gas supply contract with British Gas—they must continue to seek savings in energy.

John Huxley

## Exporters 'failing to tap Mexico market'

By David Hewson

United Kingdom exporters are failing to take advantage of the fast-growing Mexican market, Lord Limerick, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, said yesterday.

Addressing a conference on business and investment opportunities in Mexico, sponsored by *The Times* in association with Overseas Trade Board, Lord Limerick said: "British companies should be working for more active involvement in Mexico's rapidly developing economy."

There was no doubt that the world was playing for high stakes in Mexico, and the United Kingdom had to be more active in seeking a profitable share.

Lord Limerick, who visited Mexico twice last year, pointed out that with the backing of oil revenues which were the sixth largest in the world in

proven revenues, Mexico was planning an 8 per cent annual economic growth rate for the rest of this century. The Mexican Government was seeking to invest this year in the country's industrial base.

Britain supplies only 2.5 per cent of Mexican imports, its share totalling £188.1m in 1979, compared with £134.8m in 1978. Mexico already had a strong manufacturing base for a whole range of consumer products, and was now seeking to attract foreign investment in industrial developments, Lord Limerick said.

But the emphasis was now on joint venture investment for local production, especially of goods with export potential, rather than on direct import of goods.

Last year the United Kingdom Department of Trade signed a memorandum of



Lord Limerick: British companies should be more active.

Industrial cooperation with the Mexican Ministry of National Resources and Industrial Development.

Principal forms of cooperation listed included joint investment in the industrial sector and identification of opportunities for cooperation.

## Lucas and BP in joint solar project

A solar system more useful to the sun-starved British because it relies on the light from the sun instead of heat is to be developed by the consortium of Lucas and BP.

Small silicon discs the size of a beer mat and each capable of generating one watt of electricity from sunlight will be developed and marketed by a joint venture involving British Petroleum and Lucas Industries.

Ordinary solar panels absorb heat directly from the sun whereas silicon discs use light. But they also work in sunnier climates. Lucas has already won a contract with the technology

to supply a telephone network in Colombia. The new company called Lucas BP Solar Systems will be based at Haddenham, Buckinghamshire and will be concentrating on what is termed the photovoltaic effect of silicon. The light from the rays of the sun is converted into electricity to be used for power.

BP is no stranger to solar energy development, having studied and marketed domestic solar panels in Spain and Greece.

BP's market in Greece has been expanding rapidly and is now worth £3m a year. Lucas Energy Systems, a Lucas subsidiary, has been studying solar power for many years. The joint company will be investing heavily in research and BP already has solar rigs for experimentation at its laboratories in Sunbury, Middlesex, Athens, and Lavare in Northern France.

The market in solar energy is expected to be worth several million pounds in the next decade.

One of the first big projects for the new company is the design and construction of Britain's first grid-linked solar generating station.

This will be built at the Central Electricity Generating Board's Marchwood site.

Bill Johnstone

## EEC grants £80m aid for projects in Britain

By Edward Townsend

Grants totalling £80.9m from the European Regional Development Fund towards the cost of industrial and ancillary service projects in the United Kingdom were announced by the European Commission.

The grants are the first of the fund's 1981 allocations and bring to £547m the total contributed to United Kingdom projects since the fund's inception in 1975.

Almost £50m of the new allocation covers industrial projects in Scotland and Northern Ireland and the rest is for a total of 225 service projects in United Kingdom assisted areas.

The service grants are passed on in full to the local and other public authorities concerned, while the industrial grants represent a contribution of up to half the cost of assistance given to individual projects by the British Government.

Five regions of England are included in the latest grants list: the North, North-west, Yorkshire and Humberside, East Midlands and South-west.

It includes the Heworth to South Shields section of the Tyne and Wear Metro, road improvements in Merseyside, a waste treatment plant for the greater Hull area, improvements to sewage treatment works at Corby and a new water treatment works in Cornwall.

Of the total of £81m contributed to English projects, almost £20m is for 86 developments in the North and North-west.

Since 1975, more than a quarter of fund assistance to the United Kingdom has gone to Scotland. English projects have accounted for more than 45 per cent of the total contributions.

## Post Office could face £5m bill for VAT

By Patricia Tisdall

Management Correspondent

Consultations are taking place between Department of Industry and Customs and Excise officials to find a way through value-added tax regulations which could add an extra £5m a year to Post Office costs.

The problem arises because the postal service is being separated from the telecommunications division.

Mr Charles Morris, Labour MP for Okehampton and a member of the parliamentary committee dealing with the British Telecommunications Bill, was concerned that a new burden would be imposed on capital expenditure after the separation when British Telecom undertook services for the Post Office.

Mr Michael Marshall, under secretary of state for industry, recognised that there might be some transitional problems with VAT and said that officials were seeking a way to resolve them.

There is no VAT charged on internal transactions between British Telecom and the Post Office because the two are classified as one business. However, unlike the telephone service, which is exempt from VAT, and is therefore unable to offset any VAT which it pays.

Mr Marshall confirmed that under existing regulations, the postal service could be technically liable for an additional £5m a year in VAT payments on transactions between the two businesses after they were split.

Liability for the VAT payments could arise on shared facilities such as the procurement and storage of goods which the telecommunications business carries out for the postal service; on data processing facilities; and on motor transport vehicles some of which are owned by the telecommunications division but used by the postal service.

The Post Office said that services used by the public such as telex and Intelpost would not be affected.

## Germany may allow foreign communications challenge

By Bill Johnstone

The German Cabinet may give a lead to Britain if it accepts a recommendation to open the German telecommunications equipment supply market to foreign competition, while not allowing its own post office (Bundespost) to compete.

The recommendations come from the German monopolies commission in response to a study by three university professors.

Professor Jürgen Müller, of L'Ecole Polytechnique in Paris, conducted the six-month study with Professor Karl Christian von Weizsäcker and Dr Gunter Knieps from the University of Bonn.

The study coincides with a British report on value-added services being looked at by the Department of Industry. The report was prepared by Professor Michael Beesley of the London Business School.

The authors of the German study strongly recommended that the telecommunications market should be opened up to competition. The market is heavily protected at present.

The German study looked at the network and terminal supply areas of the telecommunications market and recommended a more liberal approach to purchasing.

## Agreement on Lloyd's Bill 'near'

By Richard Allen

Mr Peter Green, chairman of Lloyd's, claimed yesterday that agreement was very near in discussions with MPs over controversial aspects of the draft Bill designed to improve the insurance market's self-regulation.

As a result he hoped that the Bill would receive its second reading, even though the relevant detailed drafting of proposed changes remained to be completed.

Mr Green, who left London yesterday for a three-week tour of the United States, added that Lloyd's would shortly have talks with members of the House of Lords who may have reservations broadly similar to

the views expressed by some MPs.

In an attempt to head off opposition to the Bill, Mr Green earlier this week wrote to the market's 20,000 members urging them to seek their MPs support at a Parliamentary debate expected next month.

Assuming a smooth passage, the Bill could then be passed to its committee stage for detailed examination and for consideration of a petition against the Bill.

Although Lloyd's has refused to make changes to fundamental aspects of the Bill, it is apparently hopeful that it can win over its critics in the Commons by some changes in drafting details.

Sir Graham Page, Conservative MP for Crosby, Merseyside, who is promoting the Bill, is believed to have put proposals along these lines to several MPs and Lloyd's is hopeful that a compromise can be reached.

Opposition to a number of parts of the Bill had been mounting inside and outside Lloyd's. Among main points at issue is one particular clause which would give the Society of Lloyd's a blanket indemnity against legal action.

There have also been complaints that external names would not be sufficiently represented on a new ruling Council envisaged by the Bill.

## Fewer visitors coming into Britain

By Derek Harris

Commercial Editor

Overseas visitors into Britain dropped by 6 per cent in November compared with the same period last year, while visits abroad by United Kingdom residents rose 15 per cent, according to the Department of Trade.

The 1980 11-month total of foreign visitors at 11.76 million was 0.6 per cent lower than the previous year while outgoing visits rose 13 per cent.

But the surplus on the travel account is still £177m in Britain's favour, although it was £585m in the previous year.

Even in November there was a surplus on the account as overseas visitors in Britain spent £200m compared with United Kingdom visitors spending abroad of £165m.

The feature of the foreign visitor traffic in November was that the declines were not from North America whose

tourist traffic into Britain showed a 13 per cent rise.

In previous months declines in North American traffic had been offset by increases from other areas, including Western Europe.

Cheap transatlantic air fares on routes between London and the United States main centres have undoubtedly affected the flow from north America, although some visitors may well have been using the United Kingdom as a gateway.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Figures behind a loss Linwood plant closure

From Mr R. E. Freeman

Sir, Mr J. E. O. Arnold (February 10) cites the case of an engineering company which made a profit of £2.94m in 1976 and a loss of £0.4m in 1980 and blames the "blind ignorance and greed of trade union leaders" for this result.

Unfortunately for his case the figures he produces do not support his assertions.

In 1976 a turnover of £54m was produced by a work force of 4,234 with a wage bill of £15.6m. In 1980 a turnover of £74m was produced by a work force of 2,941 with a wage bill of £20.2m.

A few minutes with slide-rule or calculator shows that turnover per man was £12,600 in 1976 and £25,200 per man in 1980. In other words a 100 per cent increase in productivity.

Wages per man rose from £3,690 to £6,950 p.a.—an increase of 89 per cent. There was therefore a net gain to the company. If an increase in 89

per cent seems a bit steep, it could be explained partly by overtime working for increased productivity.

Alternatively, the figures show that in 1976 wages amounted to 28.9 per cent of turnover and in 1980 to 27.4 per cent of turnover which again shows an improvement.

I am afraid that Mr Arnold must look elsewhere for the loss in profits. As about 70 per cent of the costs are not disclosed there is plenty of scope, but in this case it is clear that the loss is not due to the incapacity of the trade unions.

Adjusting the figures to standard pounds to eliminate the effects of inflation will make no difference to the conclusions as "turnover" and "wages" will be subject to the same factor.

Yours faithfully,  
R. E. FREEMAN,  
20 St Hilda's Road,  
Harrogate,  
N Yorks.

## Nuclear reactor choice

From Mr S. D. Thomas

Sir, Mr D. J. Miller's response (February 10) to Lord Bowden's criticisms of current reactor choices tends to deceive by its omissions. He leaves unanswered the point that the South of Scotland Electricity Board has at least 35 per cent more capacity than it actually needs and yet it is still entering into a new commitment without thoroughly reviewing all the available technologies and options. I would like to give a more balanced view of the situation.

He emphasises that the advanced gas cooled reactor (AGR) will be based on the Hinkley B and Hunterston B designs but does not say that the design changes have been such that the orders were only placed in December, 1980, whereas Mr Benn's authorisation was given in January, 1978, and subsequently confirmed by Mr. Howell in December, 1979.

2. He is correct in pointing out the good performance of the five year operation of the AGRs only operate at a maximum of 550 MW instead of their design rating of 660 MW, a major loss of potential output.

S. D. THOMAS  
Science Policy Research Unit,  
University of Sussex,  
Falmer,  
Brighton.

### ANNUAL LEAGUE POSITION

	Hunt's B1	Hinkley B1	Hinkley B2	No. of reactors in table
1977	116	118	128	128
1978	128	134	143	143
1979	118	88	138	161
1980	143	118	118	163

## Keeping abreast of airline rates

From Mr H. L. Morgan

Sir, I sympathise with Mr Ivor Hall (February 13) who was asked to pay a surcharge on transferring from British Airways to Qantas. The fact is that there are now bewildering anomalies between the standards of first-class accommodation (and the charges) of various airlines. A higher fare is asked for a reclining seat with more leg space. BA remain, so far, on the lower first-class fare level on certain routes where their aircraft are still in the process of conversion to reclining seats and they cannot guarantee what the customer will get. Mr Hall was

probably lucky to get a converted aircraft for the outward journey. On the longer Far Eastern flights I am prepared to pay something extra for the guarantee.

Odder still is the behaviour of Cathay Pacific who have converted some 747s to fully reclining sleepers in the upstairs lounge but deny that they exist if one tries to make a booking. Even the best travel agents can hardly keep abreast of the situation.

H. L. MORGAN  
The Steamship Mutual Underwriting Association,  
201/211 Bishopsgate,  
London EC2M 3JY.

## Insurance pay

From Mr David Baxter

Sir, Staff salary claims in the insurance industry which were reported (February 10) as being of the order of 11 to 14 per cent (far above the Government guide lines) suggest to me that if the companies concerned are so well off, they could well consider making some grant to all their policy holders in receipt of annuities which are paid out of depreciated currency.

W. DAVID BAXTER,  
Cressey,  
20 Park Road,  
Beckenham,  
Kent.

February 11.

# TRUSTHOUSE FORTE LIMITED

## Results Year to 31st October 1980

	1980 £m	1979 £m	% Increase
Trading Receipts	772.4	721.0	7
Trading Profit	82.0	81.6	—
Profit before Taxation	66.0	68.2	(3)
Profit after Tax and minority interest	47.7	40.3	18
Earnings per share	23.3p	20.0p	16.5
Dividend per share	9p	8p	12.5
Dividend cover	2.6 times	2.5 times	

A difficult and challenging year but one of considerable achievement.

Profit after tax increased by 18%.

Dividend increased by 12.5%.

Earnings per share increased by 16.5%.

THF provides employment for 68,000 people.

£95 million invested in additional bedrooms, new units, capital improvements and other additions to fixed assets.

The strength of the balance sheet, the quality of our assets and the expertise of our management and staff team encourage us to look forward to the future with optimism.

Yours faithfully  
TRUSTHOUSE FORTE

To book at any of our hotels ring our reservation offices on 01-567 3444 or 061-989 6111 or see your travel agent or ring the hotel direct.

Copies of the Annual Report can be obtained from The Secretary, 7, Hanover Square, London W1R 0PS

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

# Another wild goose chase

The trail after Dunlop's mystery shareholders has now gone cold. After six months' investigation, the Department of Trade inspectors trying to track down the beneficial owners of the shares have been defeated by all of silence in the Far East.

And while they seem to have amassed a lot of circumstantial evidence that some of the Far Eastern holders have been acting either as a "pool", certainly in the case of Mr Ghafar Baba's Goodfield group, or even before they disclosed their 5 per cent stake, the sheer impossibility of pinning which shareholders have been inactive in laying bare their souls has frustrated the inspectors from making any order under Section 174 of the 1948 Companies Act placing restrictions on blocks of shares.

Each of the blame for this state of affairs laid at the door of the system of secondary market trading in the Far East which puts nominee companies to say with hand hearts that they do not know who the official owners are. The inspectors are sceptical about any procedure whereby interested owners of shares would be obliged to disclose on whose instructions shares were first bought.

It is of course possible that the DoT has set down some of their inspectors' recommendations and there was some suspicion yesterday that the Department may have its powers to delete "minor passages" were critical of stockbroker Laurence's role in operating the most important nominee companies.

Once again, however, the Dunlop report blights the no-man's land that exists between statutory and self-regulation in the v which the recent Companies Bill so pably ignored by failing to tighten up legislation over concert parties.

Dunlop has gone as far as it can under 27 of the 1967 Companies Act to cover who the beneficial shareholders are in the bid, is now back in the City's court, sure must be put on the legislators to re this unsatisfactory state of affairs.

Met even though the exceptional earnings increase "should not be expected to continue" while the rumour of the business, excluding Liggett, has managed a 12 1/2 per cent sales gain in the first quarter to £686m.

That suggests, given the limited opportunity for price increases these days, that Grand Met is still gaining volume in some areas, such as brewing, at the expense of its competitors' market shares.

Trusthouse Forte, meanwhile, after a tough though creditable year in 1979/80 when it managed only a slight shortfall on the previous year's record return, expects another difficult period, though the balance sheet, as the accounts out yesterday demonstrate, remains strong.

THE, too, has high hopes in the United States, though its strategy of gradual expansion there as opposed to Grand Met's dramatic leap, looks less impressive at this stage with United States sales now running at \$175m annually, against net sales in the quarter just reported by Liggett of \$292m.

## Property: Fresh life

The way the property sector has outperformed the rest of the market, not just in the past year but for the best part of the last four years, has led some analysts to the view that this relative strength cannot be sustained indefinitely, especially now when property yields are so low and the recession has slowed down rental growth.

What has given fresh life to property shares this year has been the hopes of a cut in interest rates, and given the widespread expectation that a fall in MLR cannot be postponed much longer, the sector seems to be in for a good run in front of the budget. In reality, however, except for the highly geared groups like Town and City the link between share values and interest rates is only psychological.

Overall the property sector is nowhere near so highly geared as to be a prime beneficiary from falling interest rates, particularly when a number of property groups led by Land Securities have been busy repairing their equity bases over the last year through rights issues and much of their borrowing is at fixed rather than floating rates.

In front of the Budget, another factor that has started to affect sentiment is the possibility of some change in capital gains tax. Any easing on this front could encourage institutions to bid for property companies since the present punitive disincentive to incorporating properties in their portfolios, where on some estimates the realized capital gains could cut 30 per cent from the gross value, would recede. The Prudential's sale of part of its MEPC holding illustrated that it was shifting its preference from companies to direct property investment.

While there may be some short-term mileage in the property sector from the Budget, the fundamentals are not quite so encouraging. True, some of the leading estate agents have started the year with some bullish remarks about rents but across the whole market, and especially industrial rents, the outlook is clouded by the recession.

● A £5.54m loss by Inveresk is within the limit for the British papermaker set by Georgia-Pacific, the bidder. Since £3.31m of the loss was extraordinary items, mainly closure costs, the underlying trading position is not so bad. But the question now is what Georgia-Pacific will find—assuming its bid goes through.

Circumstances have conspired against Inveresk. Strong sterling; high inflation; costly energy and cut-throat foreign competition are not problems of the company's making.

Conditions show little sign of improving, yet they are compounded by the fact that several of Inveresk's mills are too small, and that the company has been forced in recent years to shift from simple papermaking to conversion to cartons, packaging and so on. Carrongrove's losses are falling, but there is a long way to go before it makes a respectable return.

The loan restructuring and the debt and dividend provisions—presumably different if Georgia-Pacific takes over—should help, and the company is evidently squeezing costs and capital expenditure hard.

Nevertheless, Georgia-Pacific could well find that further measures are necessary, mill closures or disposals, for example, before this major part of the British paper industry is back on its feet. With no hope of dividends or significant profit improvement, the offer of 35p a share looks reasonable.

# When the fishermen stayed home...

The fishing vessel Ocean Herald should have been working the North Sea grounds this week along with other boats from Pittenweem in Fife. Instead she lies tied up in harbour, rising and falling redundantly on the tides sweeping the Forth estuary.

Ocean Herald would have put to sea at midnight on Sunday but for a telephone call from fishermen in the North-east of Scotland who are outraged by the lack of progress towards solving the crisis caused by a flood of cheap imported fish, much of it they claimed, caught illegally and dumped on the British market.

Skipper John McBain had already felt the effects of the slump in the market. Ocean Herald returned to Pittenweem in the early hours of February 6 with a catch that should have seen her cover the cost of running the boat and paying the wages.

"I could not believe the prices that were being offered. They were ridiculous," he said. Twenty-seven boxes of small haddock failed to make the £500 minimum and were condemned for per foot. He received £4 a box European Economic Community compensation for them. The main catch of prime fish made £580. "We ended up after five days' hard work worse off than when we set out. In fact the week has cost us £420," Mr McBain reflects.

Ocean Herald is a typical East Coast boat, 60 feet long with a thirty, 300 horsepower engine. During an average week's work it will burn 850 gallons of fuel without benefit of the sort of subsidy which most continental boats receive. Much of the skipper's fisherman's use is self-related so that the cost of fishing has gone up well ahead of inflation.

Mr McBain's boat works by towing 450 feet of tackle most of it made from artificial fibre, on top of that is the fuel bill and the cost of hydraulic oil for the machinery. If the crew save on the fuel and in last that means £1,100 is swept away. The vessel is equipped with sophisticated electronic gear to track down the shoals and operates the often severe weather conditions of the North Sea.



Mr John McBain with the Ocean Herald (left) at Pittenweem yesterday.

The fishermen of the Fife coast were about to set sail at the weekend when strike organizers in the North-east of Scotland, where ports are being blockaded to protest at cheap fish imports, called for their support. Ronald Faux visited a small Fife harbour and found a strange blend of anger and optimism.

Sea. She has two echo-sounders, radar, three radios, an autopilot and sonar. Some skippers rent their electronic equipment but Mr McBain has decided it is better to buy and pay a maintenance contract. Replacing his equipment would now cost £23,000.

Ocean Herald is five years old. Her steel hull was laid near Liverpool but she was fitted out at the neighbouring fishing port of St Margaret. She cost £178,000, an average price for a boat of her size, and is owned by Mr McBain and his father, who is now retired. The vessel proudly carries the arms of the clan McBain on her bow.

Mr McBain is aged 33, a big, gently-spoken man who is intensely optimistic about the long-term future of the industry in spite of the present gloom. He says wryly: "I cannot imagine that Mr Thatcher will allow an industry to go to the wall that is exactly what she believes an industry should be.

We work hard and if we do not work hard we do not get paid. That is surely true. I am a philosopher."

Last year Ocean Herald caught £118,000 of fish and was runner-up in the port competition for the highest earnings. Accountancy on a fishing vessel follows an involved, traditional pattern. Earnings must be at least £1,000 a week if the men on board are to earn anything. Expenses are deducted from gross earnings for fuel, stores,

landing dues, commission for the fish salesman, box charges, national insurance, maintenance of the electronic equipment and a pension scheme.

The remainder is divided into 12 shares; six for the crew and six for the boat which pays for gear, insurance (£5,500 a year for the Ocean Herald), repairs and for the boat itself. The vessel was bought with a 30 per cent grant from the Whitefish Authority, a 25 per cent grant from the EEC, a loan from the WFA repayable over five years and the rest from the McBains themselves, partly raised by the sale of their previous boat.

"We have had some expensive extras because the hydraulic system powering the winches proved faulty and the firm that it went bankrupt, but that apart we have been a very fortunate boat," Mr McBain says. Rarely has Ocean Herald returned from a week at sea and made a net loss.

Another reason I am optimistic is because new legislation is now going through the EEC to police the industry on shore and cut down the amount of fish floating about the European market. This will help keep the price at a level that makes it worthwhile going to sea."

Mr McBain and his colleagues have been supporting the angry men of the North-east. They feel they have to maintain a united front. But there is an apparent reluctance about their action. Their own recent experience tells them that the North-east fleets have a strong case but they seem more willing than the men at Aberdeen and Peterhead to accept the government's good faith.

One of them explains why: "There are signs the Government is prepared to be tough even on matters about exclusive zones or restricting our grounds to boats under 80 feet. I think their assurances should be accepted. The total allowable catch is going up, there is more haddock about this year and we have got rid of 150 Russian boats and 50 Poles from the North Sea. The Danes have been restricted and action against the big French boats now seems likely. I really feel there could be a future if the price we get for our fish is right."

Peter Hill

# Steel industry: can Sir Keith find his way through the maze?

The Bill itself is small enough. It is the sums involved and the political ramifications, which Mr Ian MacGregor, British Steel's chairman who was drafted in under a controversial £1.8m deal last year and has to get the corporation off the Government's back by the end of the 1982-83 financial year.

That statement was made by the Minister because he said the Prime Minister had become alarmed at the scale of the finance porate plan submitted to the Government last December by Mr Ian MacGregor, British Steel's chairman who was drafted in under a controversial £1.8m deal last year and has to get the corporation off the Government's back by the end of the 1982-83 financial year.

Her decision to postpone the all embracing statement on the corporate plan, the money that BSC will require for the next two years and the proposed capital reconstruction, may have been prompted at least in part by the rumblings on the Government back benches.

There is a delicate political problem here. The effect of pouring further large payments of government cash into the corporation might be to undercut the private sector companies which in a number of areas compete directly with BSC produced steel.

The independent companies have found themselves in a bit of a mess as the corporation (despite their consistent record

of high levels of investment and profitability). But the private companies—almost without exception staunch supporters of the Conservative Party—did not have access to a seemingly bottomless purse like British Steel. Hence their growing anxiety as British Steel, motivated by the highly aggressive Mr MacGregor, has been capturing business in order to build up plant leading levels and has done so by offering customers very attractive discounts.

Sir Keith and his officials have been trying to secure the rationalization of the industry through joint ventures between the public and private sectors, code named the Phoenix plan. Some private companies have been reluctant to attempt Shearson Steel, whose chief executive Mr Clancy Schueppert, will be among those sipping cocktails with Mrs Thatcher and Sir Keith at a Downing Street reception next Monday, is among those who have grave reservations about Phoenix.

An ardent free-marketier, Mr Schueppert wants no truck with the public sector. But others have been willing to take part in discussions. A last minute of government cash into the corporation might be to undercut the private sector companies which in a number of areas compete directly with BSC produced steel.

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## Business Diary: Joel's sole role • Who will take the pledge?

umped into Joel Barnett in City yesterday and even if I could open my mouth I could not tell you what he was saying. He was telling me there was no chance of his being the Gang of Three Or

I believe I owe a great deal to the party," he told me "and I believe it is the only way of defeating this Govern-

id Barnett, no fan of the ent trade union leadership: "can you clobber the union movement into submission: the only way is by persuasion—and that is not able to the Social Democrats as it will eventually be to Labour Party. For Heywood Royton is willing away his in Opposition as chair of the quoted Manchester lies firm Arthur Henriquez is a member of a committee on the public funding of political parties chaired by Lord Dell.

ell came into the House in same year as Barnett (1964), being been active with his Manchester Fabian club also sat for a North-west constituency (Birkenhead), then served at the Treasury. Dell quit the House in 1979 become chairman and chief of City finance and lling house Guinness Peat. has since emerged as a porter and possible fund-er for "The Gang".

**Wallchart**

WE'VE HAD BACKGROUND MUSIC INSTALLED IN THE OFFICES

IF I EVER APPEAR ON DESERT ISLAND DISCS....

I'LL TAKE EIGHT BLANK CASSETTES WITH ME....

● David Widdicombe, QC, one of Britain's leading planning lawyers, was leader for Windscale Appeal, one of the groups which fought unsuccessfully against a new nuclear waste reprocessing factory at Windscale, has popped up in another interesting role.

He is chairman of an organization calling itself the Nuclear Protection Advisory Group (Nupag) which has organized a seminar in London on March 18 called "Nuclear attack: protection for industry."

The purpose is to help businessmen plan to survive a nuclear attack, which is supposed to be reckoned as the industry's ultimate problem.

Nevertheless David Widdicombe believes it is solvable because in correspondence with Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation

of British Industry, Widdicombe says: "Millions of survivors would be depending on essential industries operating effectively again as soon as possible. That is why it is urgent that businessmen understand, and are able to implement, survival techniques."

A formidable team of specialists has been lined up to answer questions about what needs to be done to mitigate the effects of nuclear weapons. They include Richard Burton (the architect not the actor) and one of the organizers of the meeting, who says businessmen are worried about the lack of civil preparedness.

Other experts include Dr Alexander King, the former Foreign Office science attaché and presently chairman of the International Federation for Advanced Study.

But those with surely the most intimate knowledge of protection strategy include J. K. S. Clayton, director of the scientific advisory branch of the Home Office, Dr F. Sager, deputy-director of the Federal Office of Civil Defence, Switzerland, and Professor Leonard Lewin and Cresson Kearney from the United States.

The last two have made special studies of the impact of the electromagnetic pulse generated by weapons and nuclear war survival skills. Damage to communications systems, computers and power stations by electromagnetic surges is one of eight main issues on the agenda.

Other issues include the adaptation of services to postwar conditions, and how quickly the agricultural and food distribution network be organized.

● The time has yet to come for the pawnbroking business to be the power it was, even though everybody is short of cash and it can be quicker and not much more expensive to raise cash at the pop shop rather than at the bank.

This is what I was told yesterday by Cesare Sacerdoti, a joint vice-chairman of Time Products. This is the quoted firm best known as a distributor of timepieces and jewelry, but is also the owner of Robertson's, the pawn shop that has operated in London's Edgware Road since 1977.

"It is a social thing: people still don't like going into a pawnshop," Sacerdoti said. And that is all he would say, since pawnbrokers are so discreet as bankers.

My guess is that Robertson's flourishes because it is near Paddington Station and the many small hoteliers around there, as well as the Mayfair gamblers and showbiz types, who will put cash into and raise fresh cash on jewelry.

It may also be a "social" thing, as well as a "social" thing. There is, after all, T. M. Sutton in Victoria Street, handy for Pimlico, Westminster and Belgrave. And is not Sutton's owned by Sears Holdings, owners of the Crown Jewellers, Gowers & Co.

● When last month Sally Oppenheim, the Consumer Affairs Minister, took on tourism, the industry rejoiced at having a Minister of State rather than an Under-Secretary batting for it.

I said the rejoicing might soon die down if Mrs Oppenheim did not improve on her performance in the consumer field.

Was I too cynical too soon? I hear the English Tourist Board (ETB) should be getting a better deal on government handouts this next financial year, the Treasury notwithstanding. Allocations of cash for tourism grants and interest relief schemes, for pump-priming exercises, will be rising virtually in line with inflation this time round.

The ETB got £4.3m last year so they should be good this April for about another half million pounds.

But the tourism lobby should not get too euphoric. There seems little chance of getting anywhere with their lobbying for a lower rate of VAT for hotels.

Out of place: I remember being told once by a Yorkshireman that near his home was a shop owned by a Pakistani, a small place squashed between two other and larger premises. I can recall no more than that its name was M Dtin.

Ross Davies

**HARDYS & HANSONS LIMITED**

Highlights from Chairman's Statement

- Our beer sales have held up better than the average for the rest of the country.
- We have lived well within our own resources and have benefited from the high interest rates.
- Brewery expansion scheme is now largely operational and is expected to cost in the region of £2.1m.
- During the year four new Public Houses were opened, and one re-opened after extensive alterations.
- Trade in the first quarter has not been particularly buoyant and I cannot see any dramatic improvement whilst the economy is in its present state of recession.

Results at a glance for the 53 weeks ended 3rd October 1980

	1980 (53 weeks)	1979 (52 weeks)
Turnover	£13,075	£11,206
Profit before Tax	2,845	2,259
Available for appropriation	1,385	1,331
Earnings per share	24.57p	20.75p
Total Dividend	11.1p	8.4p



## Stock markets

# Mr Bentley discloses 12pc stake in F Pratt

The sale of H & W would provide a further large boost to Pratt's already ailing system assets backing. The group has a number of commercial properties and at October, 1973, assets per share of 202p. By then, it has made net profit of \$824,000, while the profit the H & W sale could add is 67p a share to net assets.

In an unrelated deal, Earle, whose shares fell 2p to 23p yesterday, has bought a 5 per cent stake in American oil and exploration group, West Petroleum for Canadian \$14 (\$53,000). The group is quoted in the Vancouver Star and change and traded under a

# Reliance Knitwear slumps

By Peter Wainwright

Today Reliance has 4,000 workers, only 60 fewer than the year ago. It has kept its pi and labour force virtually tact despite retail recession and the price in the months to October 31.

Turnover of this supplier knitwear and sportswear, 35 per cent of it to Marks and Spens rose a tenth to £9.57m, cloak a larger increase in volume, pretax profits plunged to

## Minister was in error, BEP says

E573.321 included £150,564 temporary employment subs (now abolished) and profits sales of fixed assets of £43,300. Shareholders were wary last August that their dividend had moved ahead too fast recent years and last time total gross payout was cut to £2.27p a share to 4.43p. Now gross interim dividend halved at 1.1p a share but encouraging point is that company is willing to abs £56,545 even though pre after tax were only £6,000. This could also be encouraging if this dividend is being a

Mr Raymond Newman, chairman, reports that "the wo-

**Impala cautious on final figures**  
By Michael Prest  
Mining Correspondent

Impala Platinum, the So African producer which is per cent owned by Generalised interim profits after and lease payments by R12 to R63.6m (£35.3m). But company says that second 1 profits are unlikely to be as good as the interim dividend has been.

end of December Impala, So Africa's second biggest p num producer, made a con dated pretax profit of R1 compared with R92.5m in same period of 1979. After profits for last full year v R119m. Interim earnings

But platinum prices fell sharply recently—dropping to \$483 an ounce in London yesterday—and this, combined with higher production and lower prices for other Impala metals such as copper, makes the company cautious about results for the winter.

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**Business appointment:**  
**Oppenheimer International chairman**

to undertake the group's me  
and acquisition and corpo  
finance activities in Europe. O  
directors of the new company:  
Mr Christopher J. S. Cl  
managing director; Mr Nor

K. Siegal, managing director;  
Jeffrey P. Beck; Mr Jack N  
Mr Stephen Robert and Sir J  
Stewart Clark

Mr. C. J. Hounsell, group commercial director of Currys, has been appointed chairman of the Currys Microsystems and Computer Division. The reasons for his appointment are his responsibilities for all branch retail operations. Mr. Hounsell was previously appointed chairman of T. Briger and Son. Mr. D. N. Valle, a former director of T. Briger and Son, has been made a director of Currys (Retail). Mr. S. Bellin

the group distribution made for Currys, has become a direct of W. R. Stott (Shipfitters). group's building and shipfit

Mr D. R. Hampton has been made secretary of AAH Ltd. British Fuel Company's from March, 1981 in succession to V. D. D. Allen who will continue as managing director.

is an executive director of A  
Ltd on a part-time basis.

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## Commodities

**"All prices quoted delivery in Kansas City. The market is a guide to general market conditions and is dependent upon local supply, quantity and whether delivered or not."**

## Late rally in "raw" sugar futures

Yesterday afternoon, "raw" sugar futures fell to their lowest levels since February 3, last year May at \$252.50, but the market finally met a short-covering rally to close 50p to \$2.15.

Traders attributed the overall decline to long liquidation, cheap and spurious selling, panic inspired by a weaker reopening in New York after the long United States holiday weekend. Turnover was 11,325 lots.

Traders noted that the afternoon sell-off contrasted with early gains of up to \$30.50 and a pared advance amid midday of 25.35.

They attributed the early rise to news from Warsaw that Poland will be seeking further 200,000 tonnes of sugar third-quarter 1981 requirements.

## Wall Street

New York, Feb. 17. Stocks on the New York Stock Exchange ended the day with a gain as the Dow Jones industrial average was up 8.11 at 339.63. But advances barely edged the Dow from its 100-day moving average unchanged. Volume climbed to 37,940,000 shares from the 36,000,000 shares traded the previous day. The Dow Jones NYSE composite rose 0.42 to 73.22, an 18th straight day of gains, and an 11th average price per share was up 20 cents.

Among the winners, Exxon gained 1 1/2 to 73, Texas, 3/4 to 40, Standard Oil of California, 1/2 to 53, and Union Pacific, 1/2 to 49. A large energy operation, 3 to 73, and a steel company, 1/2 to 67 3/4 and 1/2 to 70 1/2.

Among the losers, General Motors eased 1/4 to 43 1/2 while Ford motor edged 1/2 to 20. GM will offer cash rebates of \$500 to \$700 on new cars, and Ford will make 10 per cent rebates on selected models. American Motors Corp. price rollback on all AMC cars to March 15. AMC edged 1/4 to 44.

Oil prices, 5 1/2 to 59 1/2 put off to Friday its \$4000 note issue.

Market Trans- (day's range)		Market Rates (close)		1 month	
New York	\$2,540-2,550	\$2,540-2,550	6.534-6.542 disc		
Montreal	\$3,780-3,800	\$3,780-3,800	6.534-6.542 disc		
London	80.00-80.10	80.00-80.10	6.534-6.542 disc		
Brussels	80.00-80.10	80.00-80.10	6.534-6.542 disc		
Frankfurt	1.3300-1.3350	1.3300-1.3350	6.534-6.542 disc		
Dubai	1.3300-1.3350	1.3300-1.3350	6.534-6.542 disc		
Amsterdam	1.29-1.30	1.29-1.30	6.534-6.542 disc		
Madrid	1.29-1.30	1.29-1.30	6.534-6.542 disc		
Paris	1.29-1.30	1.29-1.30	6.534-6.542 disc		
Gene	1.29-1.30	1.29-1.30	6.534-6.542 disc		
Stockholm	1.29-1.30	1.29-1.30	6.534-6.542 disc		
Tokyo	485-490	485-490	6.534-6.542 disc		
Hong Kong	485-490	485-490	6.534-6.542 disc		
Zurich	4.50-50.51	4.50-50.51	6.534-6.542 disc		

Effective exchange rate compared to 1975, was down 1.0 at 103.5.

## Money Market

**Rates**  
 Banks of England MLR 14%  
 (Last changed 24/11/80)  
 Clearing Banks Base Rate 14%  
 Discount Mkt Loans 6%  
 Overnight: High 14 Low 13½  
 Week Fixed: 14-13½

**Treasury Bills (Dis%)**  
 Buying Selling  
 3 months 13½ 13½  
 6 months 13 13

3 months	12 <sup>1</sup> <sub>12</sub> -12 <sup>1</sup> <sub>12</sub>	4 months	12 <sup>1</sup> <sub>12</sub>
4 months	12 <sup>1</sup> <sub>12</sub> -12 <sup>1</sup> <sub>12</sub>	6 months	12 <sup>1</sup> <sub>12</sub>
6 months	11 <sup>1</sup> <sub>11</sub> -11 <sup>1</sup> <sub>11</sub>		

Local Authority Bonds			
1 month	13 <sup>15</sup> -15 <sup>15</sup>	6 months	13 <sup>15</sup>
3 months	14 <sup>14</sup> -14 <sup>14</sup>	8 months	13 <sup>15</sup>
4 months	13 <sup>15</sup> -13 <sup>15</sup>	9 months	13 <sup>15</sup>
5 months	13 <sup>15</sup> -13 <sup>15</sup>	10 months	13 <sup>15</sup>
6 months	13 <sup>15</sup> -12 <sup>14</sup>	11 months	13 <sup>15</sup>
		12 months	13 <sup>15</sup>
Secondary Mkt. FCD Rates (%)			
1 month	14 <sup>14</sup> -14	6 months	13 <sup>15</sup>
3 months	13 <sup>14</sup> -13 <sup>14</sup>	12 months	12 <sup>13</sup>
Local Authority Market (%)			
2 days	14 <sup>14</sup> -14 <sup>14</sup>	3 months	13 <sup>15</sup>
7 days	14 <sup>14</sup> -14 <sup>14</sup>	6 months	12 <sup>13</sup>
1 month	14 <sup>14</sup>	1 year	12 <sup>13</sup>

## Gold

(r.) calls, 16¢-17¢; seven days, 16¢-17¢; one month, 17¢-17½¢; three months, 17½¢-18¢; six months, 17¢-18¢.

## Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

[illegible]







HENRY BUTCHER



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Invites Applications For The Position Of

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The job involves establishing and maintaining good liaison with members of the medical profession and generating positive ideas for marketing the services of this private hospital.

The successful applicant will have wide experience of the medical world and will be able to organise events and people on both business and social levels. Experience of medical sales would be a key advantage. Patience and diplomacy, combined with an aptitude for simple figure work and the ability to use initiative and think creatively are essential.

The hospital offers a generous salary, free medical insurance, free meals on duty and good working conditions.

For an application form please contact the Personnel Department on:

01-722 7733 Ext. 325

**Secretary**

to the Deputy Managing Director

A first class secretary is required by the Mappin & Webb Group who are the most prestigious and one of the largest in the retail jewellery trade.

The work is varied covering secretarial functions, office administration and communication with staff at all levels.

The position commands an attractive salary and is based at our Head Office in Regent Street. Benefits include free lunches, contributory pension, generous staff discount and season ticket loans after six months service.

Telephone Mrs. A. Lucas, on 01-734 5842.

**Mappin & Webb**

**BRITISH TOURIST AUTHORITY**

**Personal Secretary Publishing**

Salary Scale £5,344 - £6,235

B.T.A. is seeking an experienced Secretary for its Publications Manager who is responsible for a wide range of literature produced for the overseas tourist to Britain. The job is based in the Old Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1, close to Edgware Road and Baker Street stations.

Applicants must have first class shorthand/typing, be good organisers and willing to accept responsibility. A background in publishing would be a distinct advantage.

Benefits include 22 days leave, L.V.s, flexi time and the opportunity to qualify for generous proficiency payments.

For an application form please telephone Mrs. Linda Taylor, Personnel Officer on (01) 625 8181 ext 108 or write to her at B.T.A., 64 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1NF.

**£5,750 at 20P**

This is one of the best

At this TV Company, W.I. you'll be working in the Chairman's Suite assisting his P.A. with a broad range of duties. Good audio, secretarial and travel skills are essential, plus some s/h (100/90). Executive level experience helpful but a flair with people most important as there's lots of telephone work and client liaison, too!

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£7,000 + BENEFITS

The Chairman of this international firm of Lloyd's brokers needs a highly organised Secretary/P.A. who in addition to the traditional role, will co-ordinate the client's investment which in previous years has included Open Golf Championships and similar events. Age 27-40. Speeds 100/60.

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require mature secretary/assistant with some commercial knowledge, needed as soon as possible; should have good typing and enjoy responsibility. Salary negotiable from £4,500 p.a.

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GERMAN. Personal secretary for an international company. Excellent English (with shorthand) and German (written and spoken). Long holidays. £5,500-£7,000. SPANISH. Two new City jobs with Spanish, one in a bank with the usual extras. Both languages need to be excellent. Spanish shorthand appreciated. One year experience at least. To £6,000.

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Recruitment consultants

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CITY apt. Pat, 283 5833

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for small personal management consultancy in St. James's, S.W.1. Would suit someone up to 35, with good business sense and lively personality. Looking for involvement in a growing company. Job includes admin, typing and personal shopping. Salary £5,500 plus bonus. Between 01-499 2977.

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TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Chiswick, £7,000

Grand Met Hotels and Catering Ltd, a major sector of Grand Metropolitan, employing 40,000 people, has just moved its headquarters to Chiswick. The work of the Chief Executive's Secretary PA is varied, stimulating and often urgent. It is very much involved in high level contact both within the group and externally within the industry and with bodies such as the CBI and NEDO.

The headquarters is a large house in its own grounds next to Chiswick House.

Please write to: Mrs A. Kelly

Grand Met Hotel and Catering Ltd,

The Gate House,

Hogarth Lane, Chiswick, W4.

or telephone: 01-747 0011

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£6,500  
Assist the senior partner near the Old Bailey on really big cases. You'll have better than the usual working hours and your very own office. Shorthand is required as well as audio. Company and commercial law experience will also suit you. The same salary and conditions when assisting another partner.

£6,500  
City accountants require a supervisor of cash and accounts with experience to TB who also enjoys liaising with people.

£6,000  
A levels are an advantage for PA admin sec assisting the Director of Studies preparing examinations. Liaising with tutors, organising social functions, etc. Great job for a methodical and well spoken Secretary.

£5,100 basic + 4-  
These famous Stockbrokers need an audio typist with a pleasant personality to assist clients. Word processing training will be given along with other benefits including massive bonuses and £1 per day L.V.s.

Phone Jan Salmon

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Employment Agency

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Career Girl 40 Bow Lane E.C.4 (off Champside)

**SECRETARY/**

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Applications are invited for the position of Secretary/Personal Assistant to the Co-ordinator for the North European region of the world-wide Bata Shoe Organization, who is based in Oxford Street, London.

The person selected for this position will have basic commercial knowledge and be able to speak English and German or French and be able to type with a knowledge of shorthand although high speeds are not essential. Being self-reliant and an ability to work on own initiative will be most important.

The salary will be in the region of £8,000 according to the individual's ability and experience.

Applications in writing to Mr D. Copping, British Bata Shoe Company Ltd, East Tilbury, Essex. Tel. Tilbury 3400.

**The Royal Marsden Hospital**

Fulham Road, London SW3

**Secretary to the**

**House Governor**

Secretary and Personal Assistant required for the House Governor and Secretary to the Board of this postgraduate teaching hospital situated in Chelsea. Applicants must be experienced in secretarial work with good typing/shorthand skills. They should be presentable in manner and appearance and used to dealing with people at all levels.

Salary scale £5,381-£8,839 including London Weighting.

For application form and job description please contact the Personnel Department, Tel. 01-352 8171, ext. 446.

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Please write with C.V. to B. J. W. Williams, Bentley House, King's Scholars' Passage, Carlisle Place, London, S.W.1.

01-828 5980 (between 9 a.m.-1 p.m.)

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Crawley circa £6,000

This multinational company with very pleasant offices needs a mature Secretary with a minimum of 5 years experience. In addition to good skills (100/50 speeds) there will be interesting and demanding job, with plenty of client contact and some for initiative. Close to Tube. Office. Good holidays.

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**TRADING**

c. £6,500

The Managing Director and a Director of the Commodity Division of a well-known City company seek a Secretary/PA (25+). You will be right at the centre of things carrying out the day to day work of the Division (slow shorthand), scanning the press for relevant articles, preparing a press release and generally 'getting involved' in all aspects of the department. Excellent office, generous benefits, plus a lunch.

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**ADMIN SECRETARY**

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Wendy Restaurants (UK) Ltd. require a 2nd ambitious, capable and polished secretary for varied work including finance and property matters. The successful candidate will have excellent skills including shorthand (70/80 wpm) and typing (80/90 wpm). Preferred age range 21 to 29.

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Who enjoys the practical technicalities

Administrative flair and a scientific leaning are equally important as impeccable shorthand/typing for this appointment with Guinness Overseas Ltd., the company handling Guinness' brewing interests world-wide.

As Secretary to the Technical Manager, you will yourself be involved in a wide range of administrative tasks of a technical nature - including processing lecture material, preparing visual aids and taking minutes - in addition to a challenging round of secretarial duties. And, since the Manager is frequently abroad, your initiative and decisiveness will be at a premium.

We are therefore looking for 'A' level standard education - ideally with a science bias - plus proven secretarial experience. Knowledge of French will be an advantage.

On top of the attractive starting salary you will qualify for the outstanding Guinness benefits package: 5 weeks' holiday; non-contributory pension; season ticket loan; free lunches; and superb sports and social facilities. Our pleasant offices are easily reached by bus, rail and underground.

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